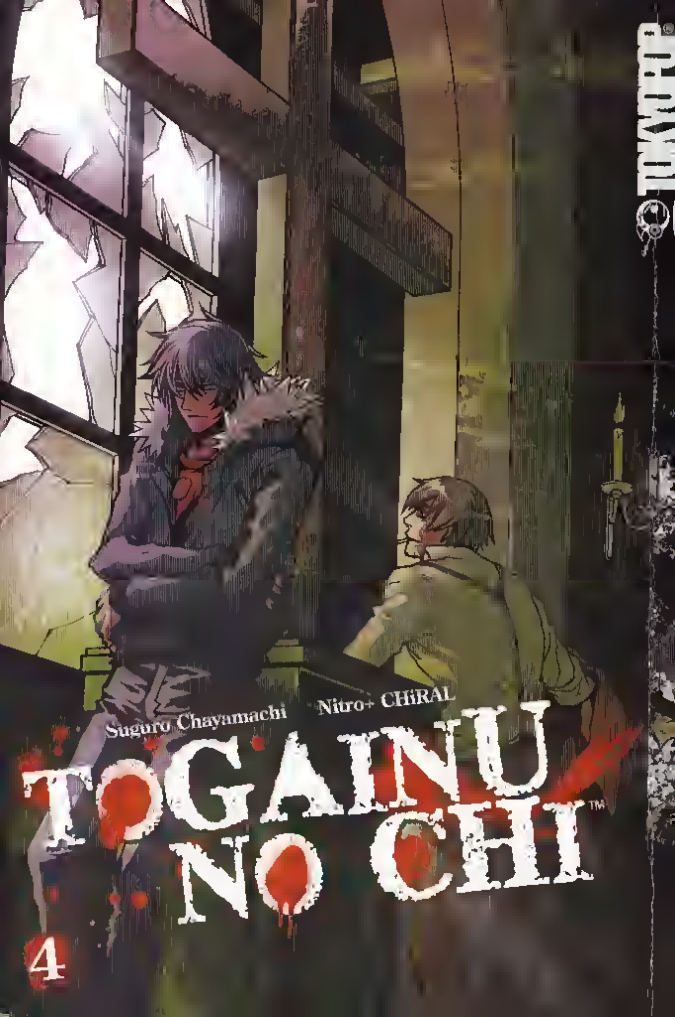
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4

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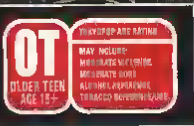
Developments in the murky world of Toshima escalate as the participants of Laura obsessively seek out the addictive 50% Pure Line. What path will Akira take after witnessing the grotesque aftermath of a bloody massacre while constantly being hunted by Takeru, who is more savagely deluded and intoxicated with each encounter? And to what twisted lengths will disheartened Keisuke go in order to prove himself to Akira? As old mysteries unravel, it becomes apparent there is no hope for change, much less survival.



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Volume 4

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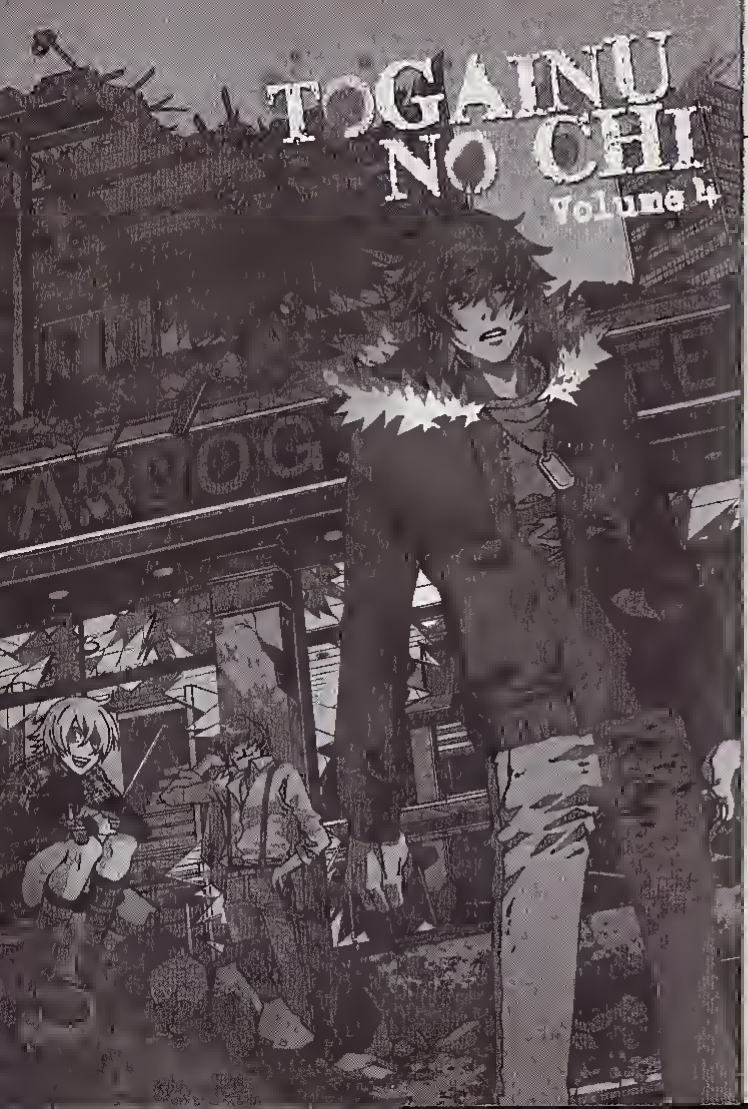

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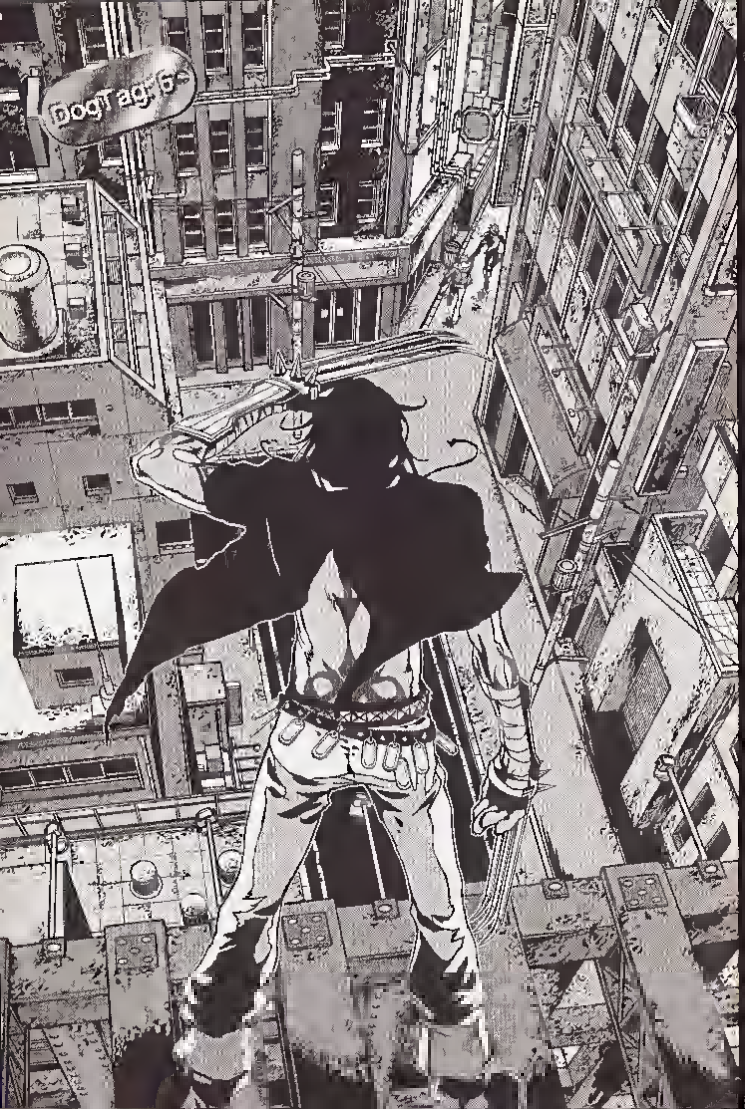

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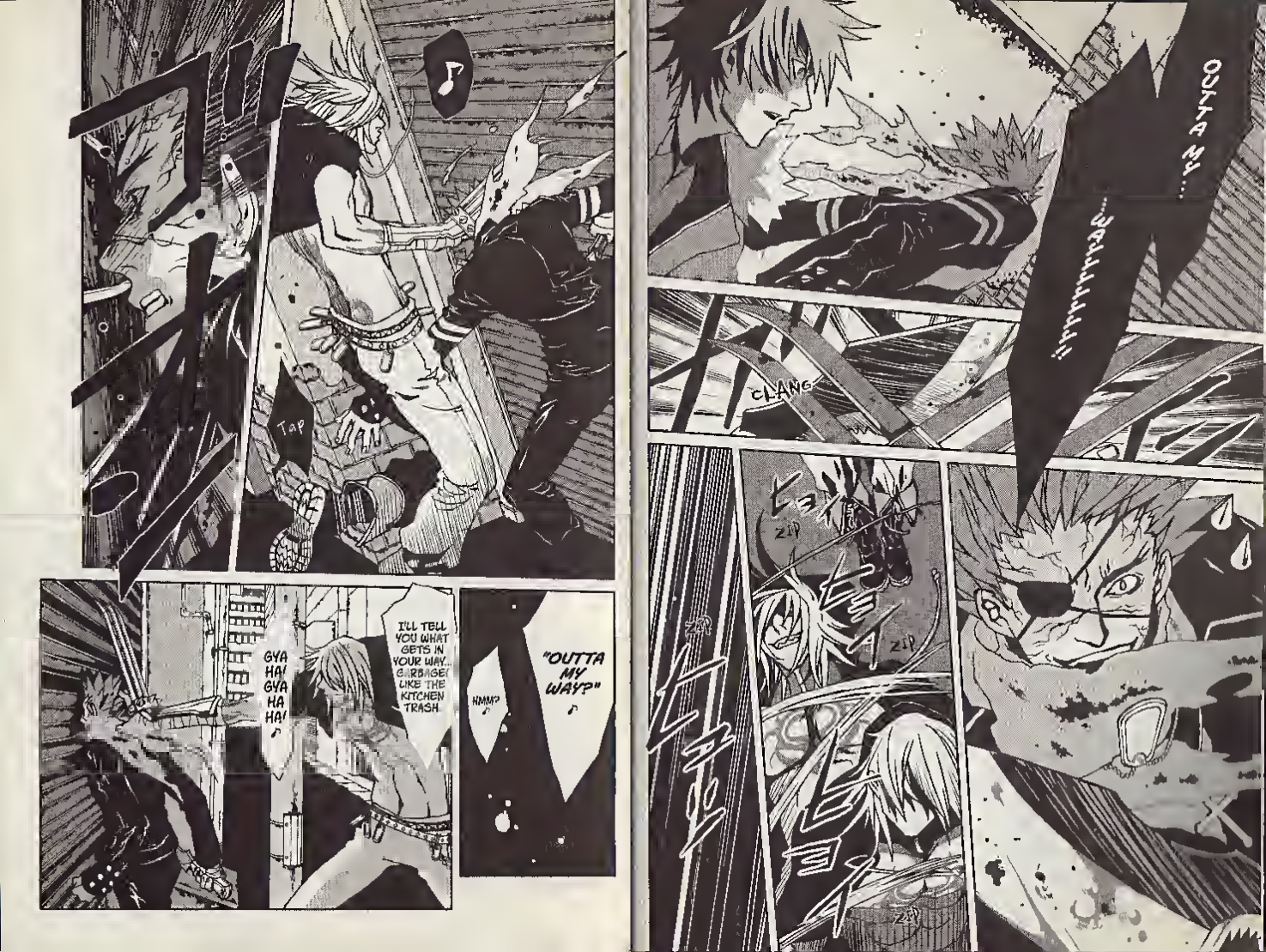
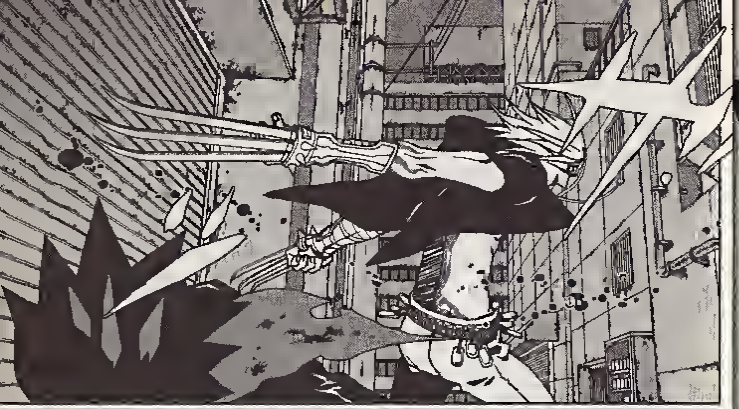
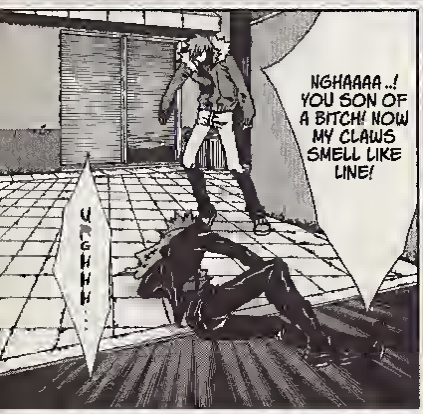
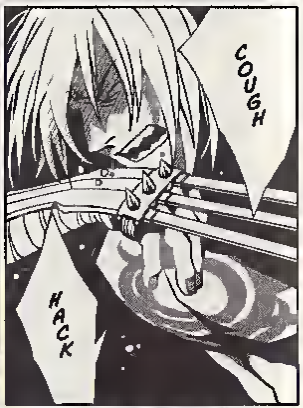
I SAID LET GO!!
NGH...!
Gya ha!♪


Tap
GYA HA! GYA HA HA!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT GETS IN YOUR WAY... GARBAGE! LIKE THE KITCHEN TRASH.
HMM?
"OUTTA MY WAY?"
OUTTA MY...
...WAAAAAY!!!
CLANG
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP

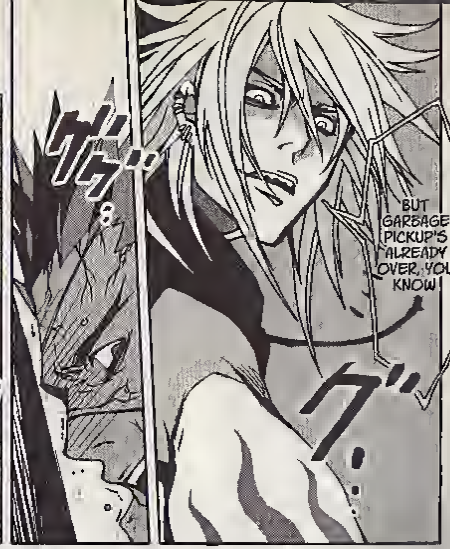


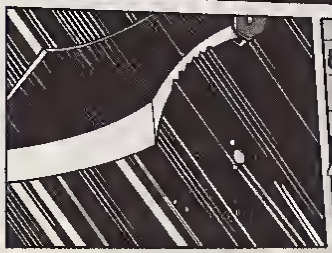

NGHAAAA..! YOU SON OF A BITCH! NOW MY CLAWS SMELL LIKE LINE!
UAGHHH...

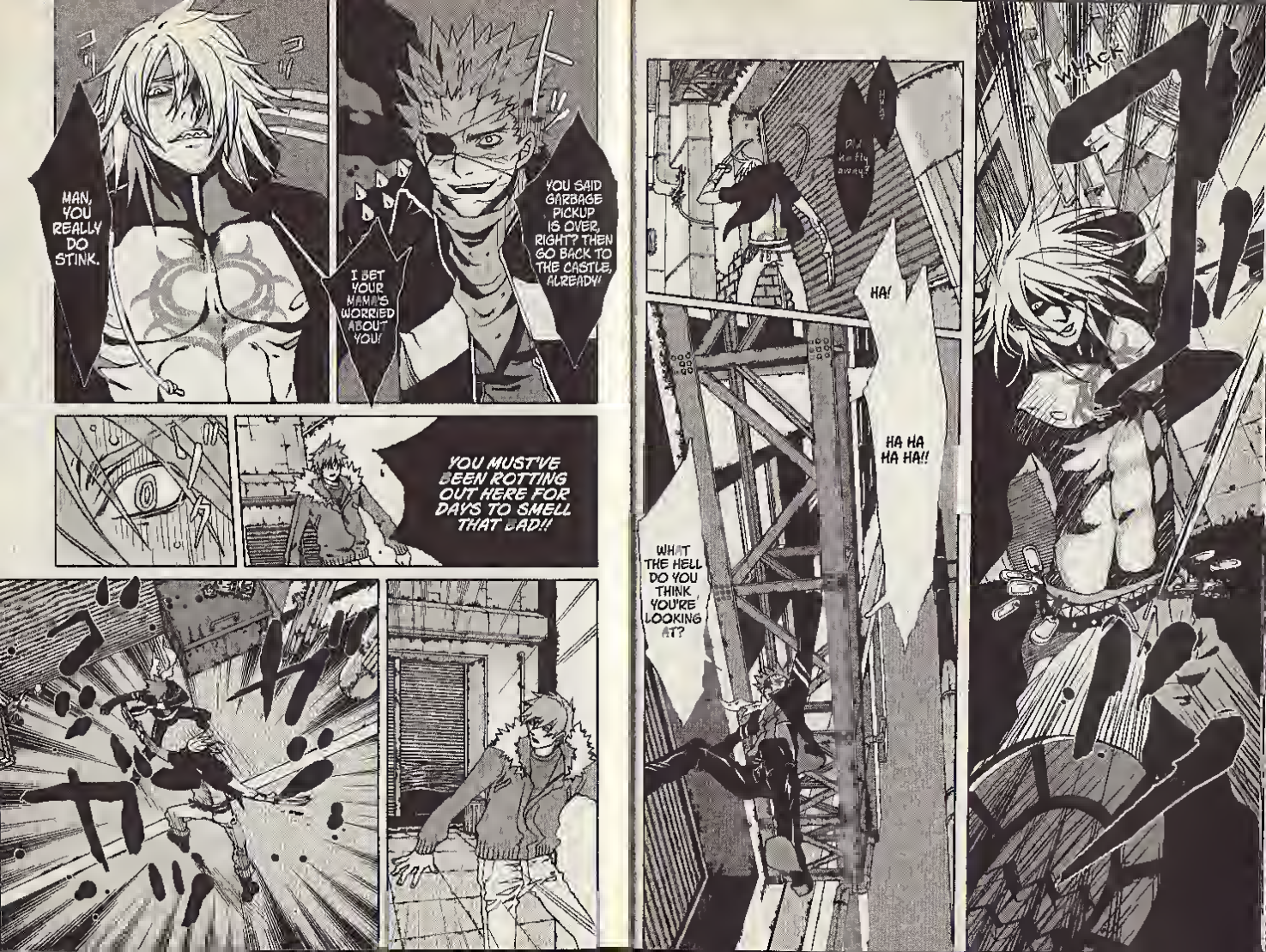

COUGH
HACK

YOU STINK, ASSHOLE-EEEEE!

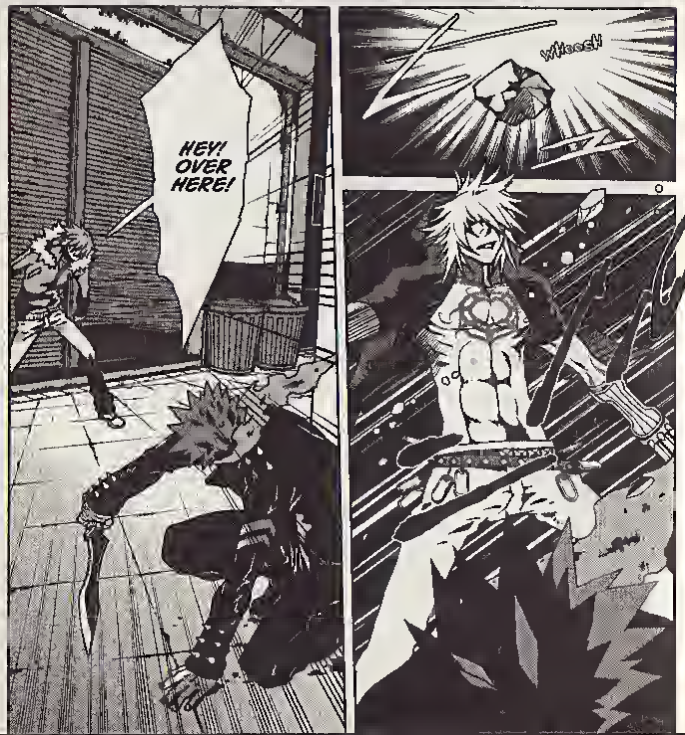
THUNK


BUT GARBAGE PICKUP'S ALREADY OVER, YOU KNOW!



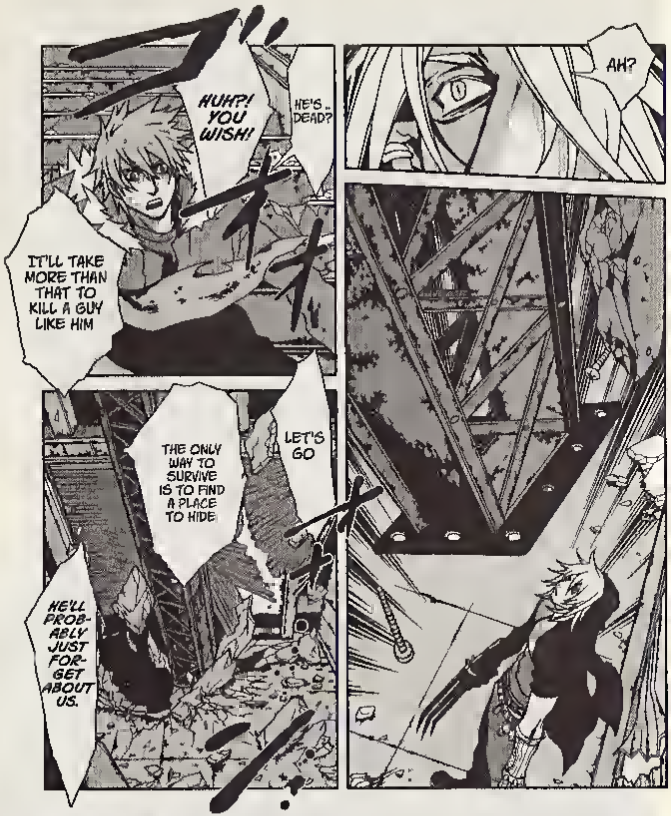

MAN, YOU REALLY DO STINK.
I BET YOUR MAMA'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
YOU SAID GARBAGE PICKUP IS OVER, RIGHT? THEN GO BACK TO THE CASTLE, ALREADY!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN ROTTING OUT HERE FOR DAYS TO SMELL THAT BAD!!
HUH?
DID he fly away?
HA!
HA HA HA HA!!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE LOOKING AT?
WHACK

GYA HA HA!
NGH...
UHH

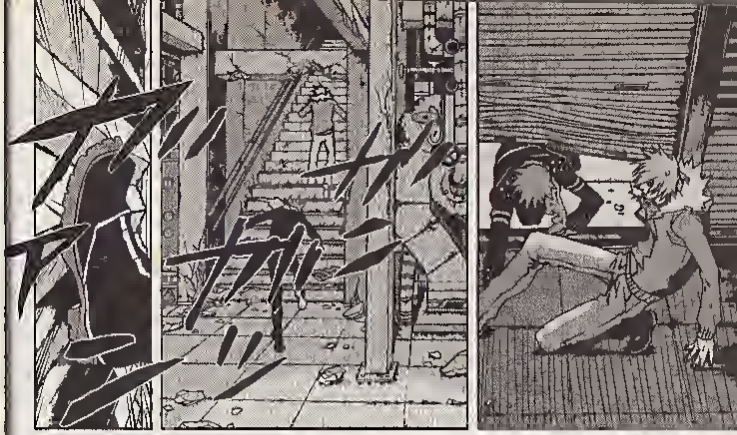

HEY! OVER HERE!
whoosh

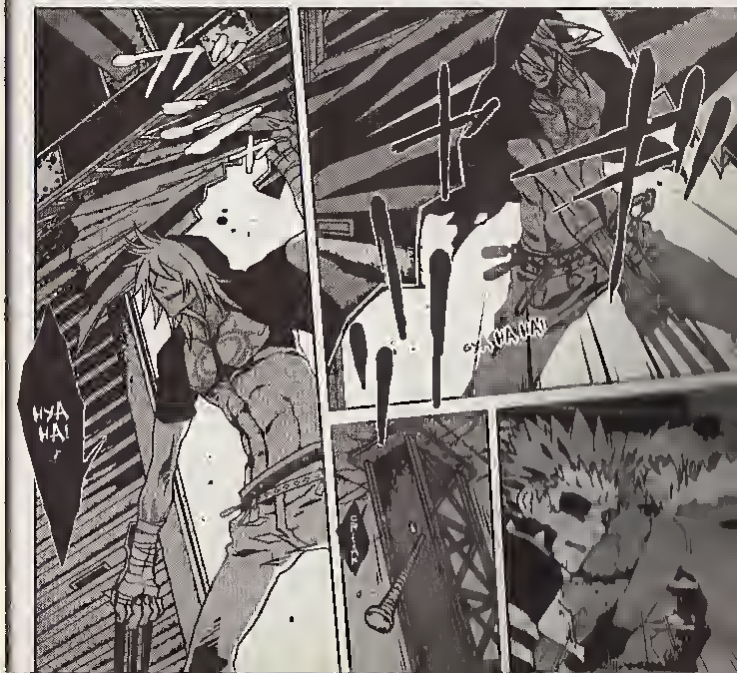
-KOZ

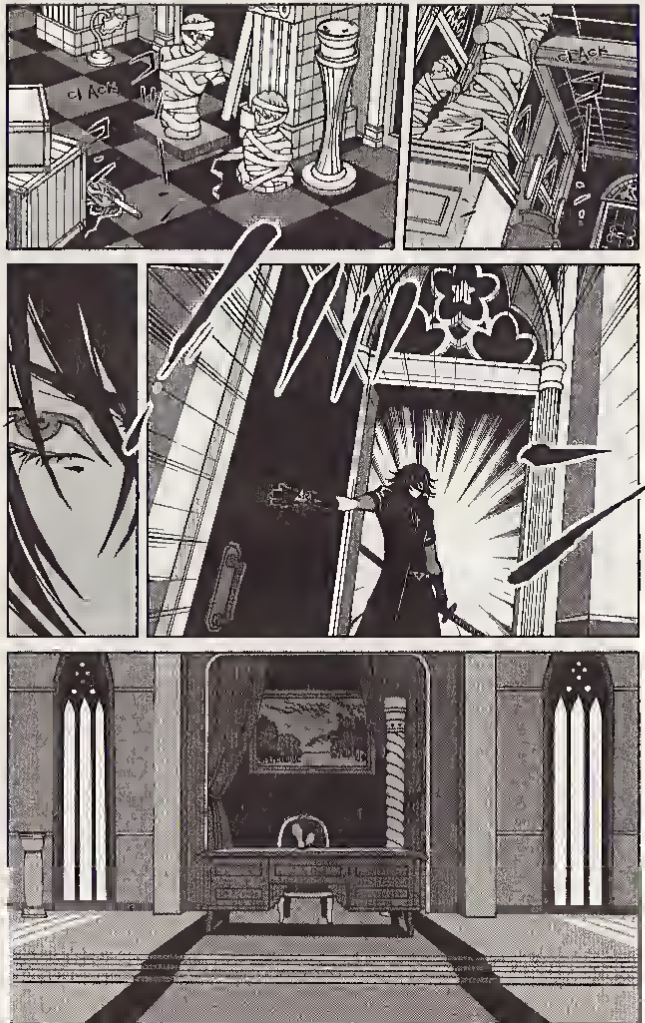
whoosh

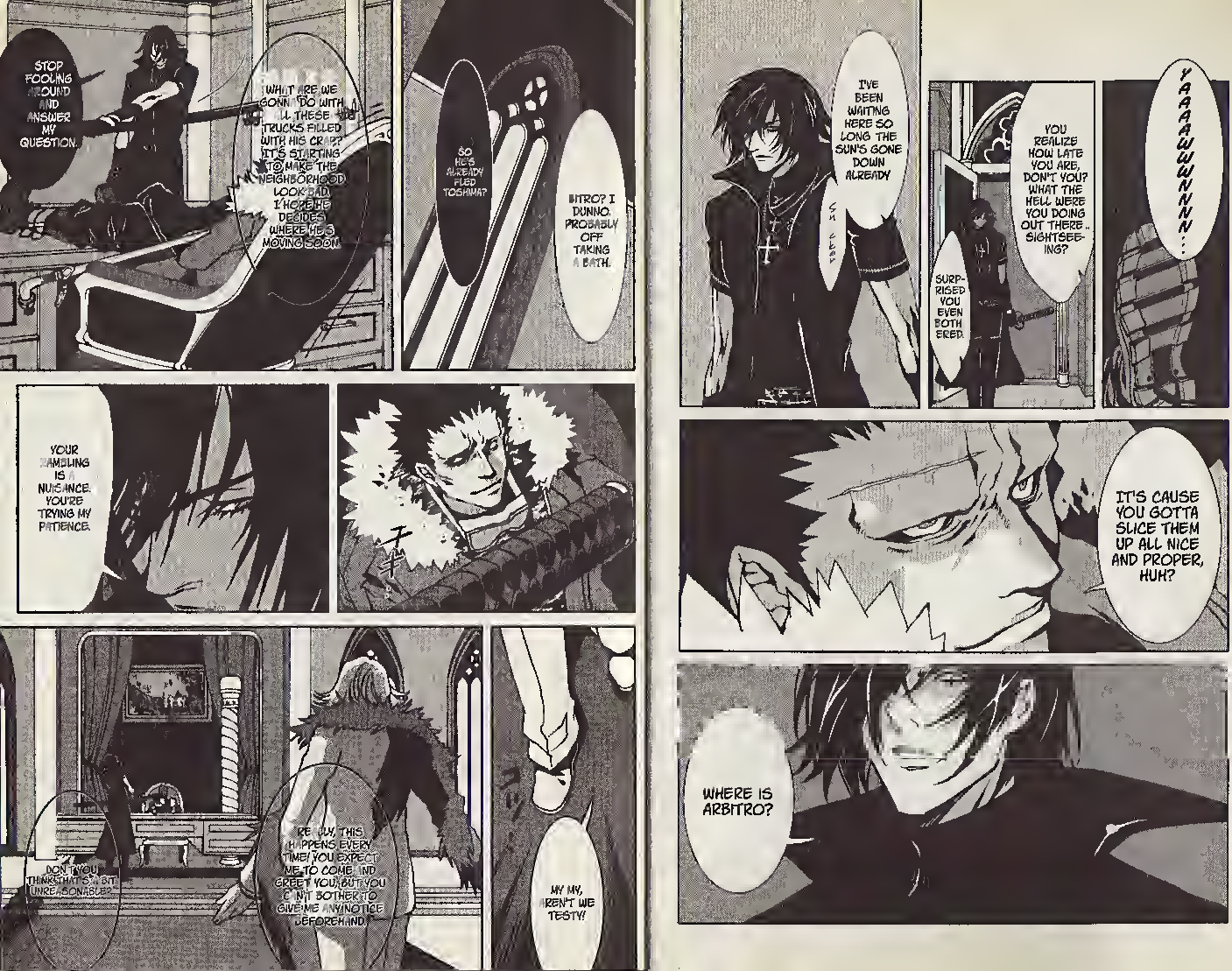

HUH?! YOU WISH!
HE'S... DEAD?
AH?
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO KILL A GUY LIKE HIM
LET'S GO
THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE IS TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE
HE'LL PROBABLY JUST FORGET ABOUT US.

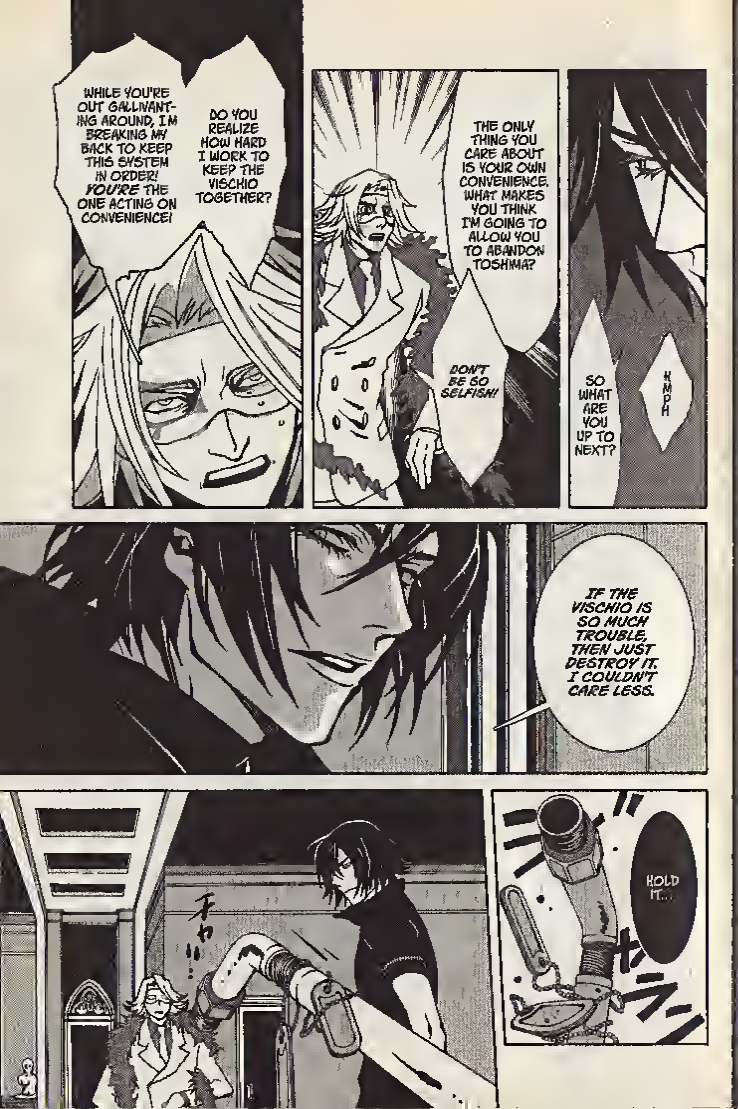
Kong




HYA HA!
GYAHAHA!

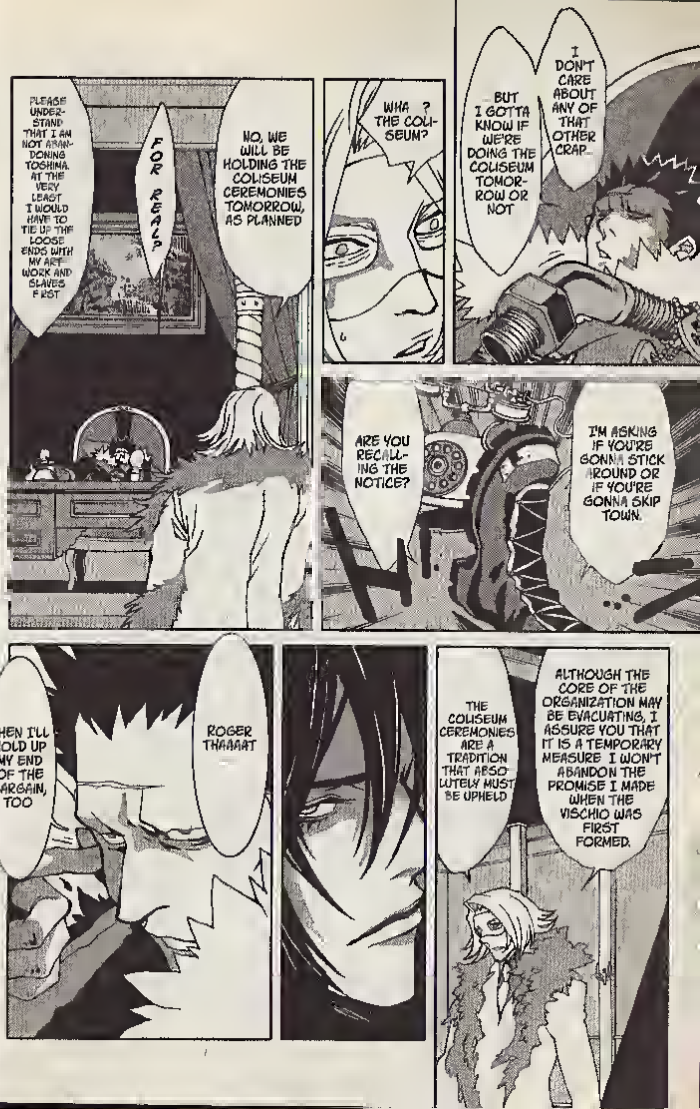

CLACK
CLACK


STOP FOOLING AROUND AND ANSWER MY QUESTION.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH ALL THESE HID TRUCKS FILLED WITH HIS CRAP? IT'S STARTING TO MAKE THE NEIGHBORHOOD LOOK BAD. I HOPE HE DECIDES WHERE HE'S MOVING SOON.
SO HE'S ALREADY FLED TOSHIMA?
BITRO? I DUNNO. PROBABLY OFF TAKING A BATH.
I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE SO LONG THE SUN'S GONE DOWN ALREADY
SIGH
SURPRISED YOU EVEN BOTHERED.
YOU REALIZE HOW LATE YOU ARE, DON'T YOU? WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING OUT THERE.. SIGHTSEEING?
YAAAAWWNNNN...
YOUR RAMBLING IS A NUISANCE. YOU'RE TRYING MY PATIENCE.
IT'S CAUSE YOU GOTTA SLICE THEM UP ALL NICE AND PROPER, HUH?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT UNREASONABLE?
RE-SUV, THIS HAPPENS EVERY TIME! YOU EXPECT ME TO COME AND GREET YOU, BUT YOU CAN'T BOTHER TO GIVE ME ANY NOTICE BEFOREHAND!
MY MY, AREN'T WE TESTY?
WHERE IS ARBITRO?

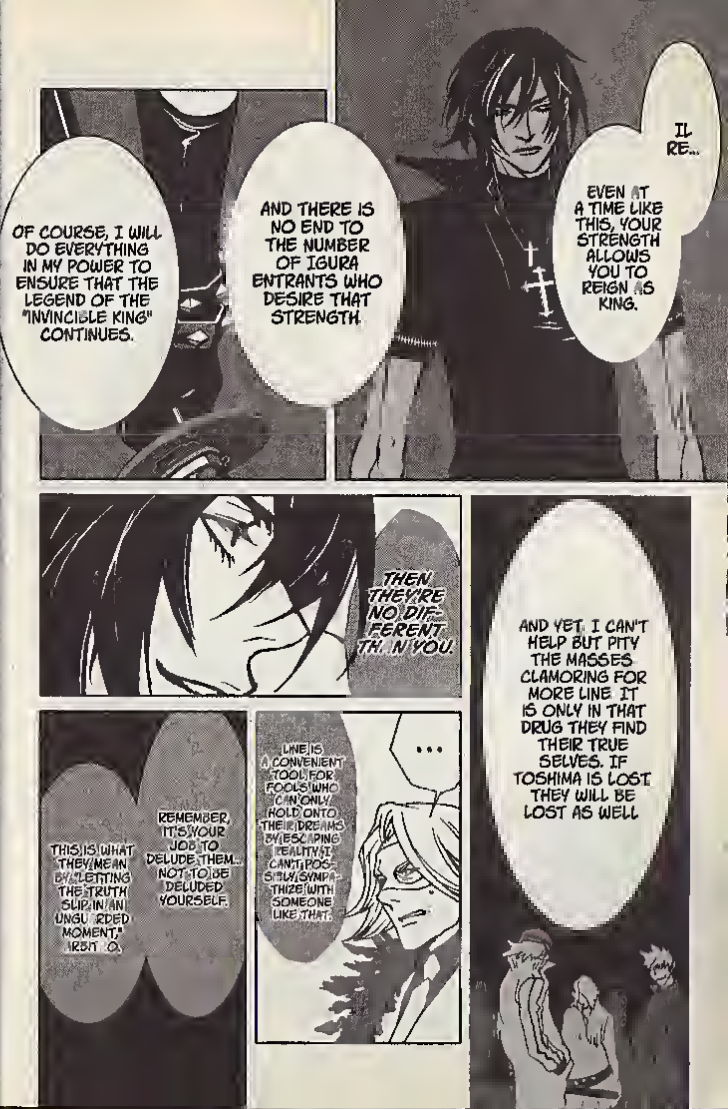

WHILE YOU'RE OUT GALLIVANTING AROUND, I'M BREAKING MY BACK TO KEEP THIS SYSTEM IN ORDER! YOU'RE THE ONE ACTING ON CONVENIENCE!
DO YOU REALIZE HOW HARD I WORK TO KEEP THE VISCHIO TOGETHER?
THE ONLY THING YOU CARE ABOUT IS YOUR OWN CONVENIENCE. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M GOING TO ALLOW YOU TO ABANDON TOSHIMA?
DON'T BE SO SELFISH!
SO WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NEXT?
KMPH
IF THE VISCHIO IS SO MUCH TROUBLE, THEN JUST DESTROY IT. I COULDN'T CARE LESS.
HOLD IT...

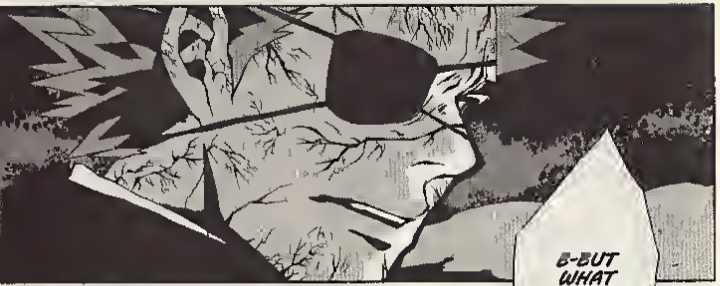
DO YOU REMEMBER THE CIVILIAN PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICIAL FROM THE CFC?
WHAT?
I DON'T RECALL EVER DINING WITH YOU.
AT THE TIME, ALL THEY TOLD ME WAS THAT YOU WERE A MAN WHO WORKED "BEHIND-THE-SCENES." I NEVER IMAGINED THAT OUR PATHS WOULD BECOME SO INTERTWINED.
THEY WERE AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE FROM MY DAYS WORKING AT THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY. I FIRST SAW YOU SPEAKING TO ONE OF THE GUESTS AT A DINNER PARTY.
AT ANY RATE, I'LL HAVE A SEAT PREPARED FOR YOU AT TONIGHT'S DINNER. IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE WE'VE DINED TOGETHER.
WHY, IF ONLY YOU HAD CALLED AHEAD, I COULD HAVE ARRANGED FOR SOME DINING
NOW, I THINK WE OWE OURSELVES ANOTHER PARTY...IN COMMEMORATION OF OUR SUCCESS.
IN THE END, I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU CHOSE ME. TOGETHER, WE'VE MADE THE VISCHIO GROW FAR BEYOND THE IMAGINATIONS OF ANYONE AT THAT DINNER PARTY.
OF COURSE, AT THE TIME, NONE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WERE ABLE TO CREATE "PERFECT LINE." IT WAS A FORTUNATE COINCIDENCE THAT YOUR SIDE HAD THE DRUG, BUT LACKED THE RESOURCES TO MAKE USE OF IT.
THAT WHOLE WAY OF LIFE WAS THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING

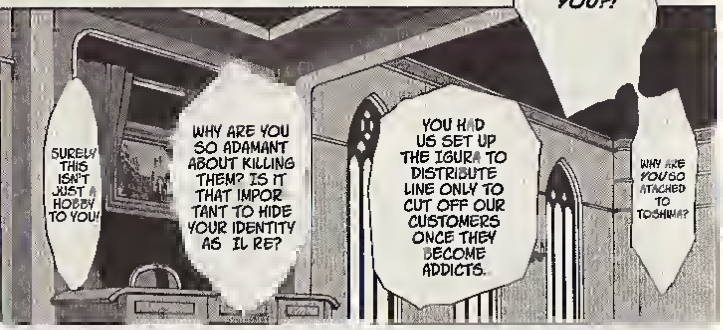
IF I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE A DECENT SHIT BEFORE THE SHOW YOU'LL END UP WITH A NASTY SURPRISE IN THE COLISEUM TOILETS.
BUT SERIOUSLY, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ADDING ANOTHER OPENING ACT TO THE SHOW
IT STARTS TOO EARLY!
キャリン..
I KNOW, I KNOW. I'LL BE RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
WHA.
KIRIWAR! DON'T LEAVE!
WAIT ..!
THE FINAL BATTLE TO BE KING.
TOMORROW WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST COLISEUM TO BE HELD IN TOSHIMA.
AND SINCE TOSHIMA IS TRAPPED BETWEEN THE CFC AND THE NIKKO BEN, WE'RE LIKELY TO FIND OURSELVES IN QUITE A PREDICAMENT.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE CIVIL WAR BREAKS OUT.

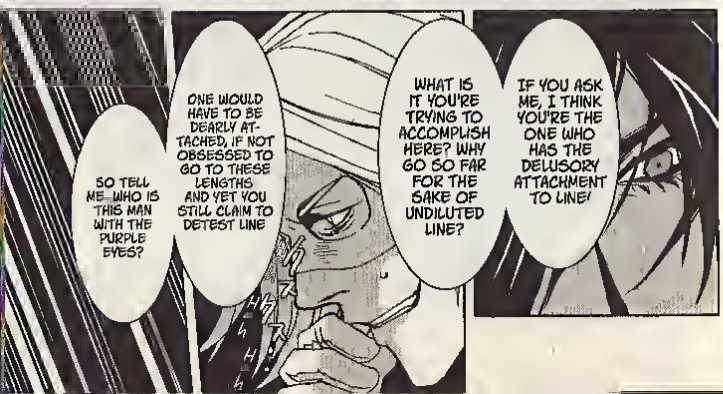

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT I AM NOT ABANDONING TOSHIMA. AT THE VERY LEAST I WOULD HAVE TO TIE UP THE LOOSE ENDS WITH MY ART-WORK AND SLAVES FIRST
FOR REAL?
NO, WE WILL BE HOLDING THE COLISEUM CEREMONIES TOMORROW, AS PLANNED
WHA ? THE COLI-SEUM?
BUT I GOTTA KNOW IF WE'RE DOING THE COLISEUM TOMOR-ROW OR NOT
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT OTHER CRAP.
ARE YOU RECALL-ING THE NOTICE?
I'M ASKING IF YOU'RE GONNA STICK AROUND OR IF YOU'RE GONNA SKIP TOWN.
THEN I'LL HOLD UP MY END OF THE BARGAIN, TOO
ROGER THAAAAT
THE COLISEUM CEREMONIES ARE A TRADITION THAT ABSO-LUTELY MUST BE UPHELD
ALTHOUGH THE CORE OF THE ORGANIZATION MAY BE EVACUATING, I ASSURE YOU THAT IT IS A TEMPORARY MEASURE. I WON'T ABANDON THE PROMISE I MADE WHEN THE VISCHIO WAS FIRST FORMED.

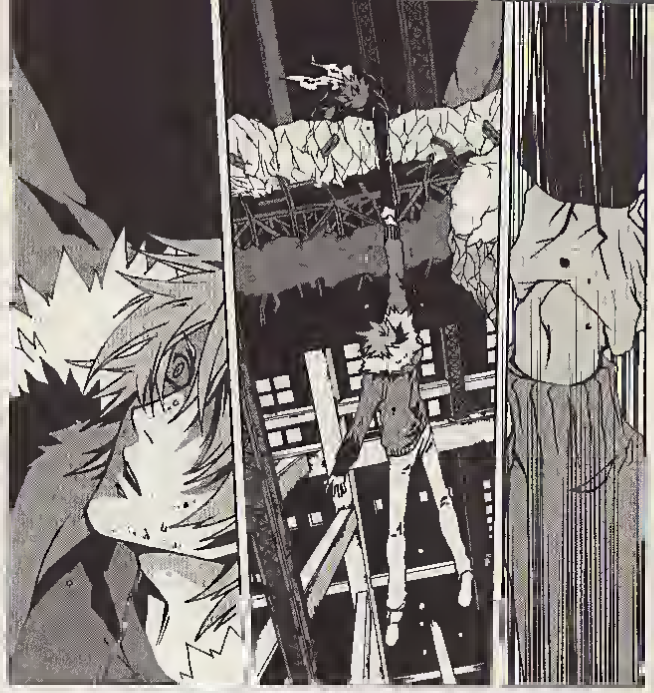
Tap
Huff
Huff
Huff
!!


IL RE...
EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS, YOUR STRENGTH ALLOWS YOU TO REIGN AS KING.
AND THERE IS NO END TO THE NUMBER OF IGURA ENTRANTS WHO DESIRE THAT STRENGTH.
OF COURSE, I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO ENSURE THAT THE LEGEND OF THE "INVINCIBLE KING" CONTINUES.
THEN THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT THAN YOU.
AND YET, I CAN'T HELP BUT PITY THE MASSES CLAMORING FOR MORE LINE. IT IS ONLY IN THAT DRUG THEY FIND THEIR TRUE SELVES. IF TOSHIMA IS LOST, THEY WILL BE LOST AS WELL.
...
LINE IS A CONVENIENT TOOL FOR FOOLS WHO CAN ONLY HOLD ONTO THEIR DREAMS BY ESCAPING REALITY. I CAN'T POSSIBLY SYMPATHIZE WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
REMEMBER, IT'S YOUR JOB TO DELUDE THEM... NOT TO BE DELUDED YOURSELF.
THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY "LETTING THE TRUTH SLIP IN AN UNGUARDED MOMENT," ARE'T-O.



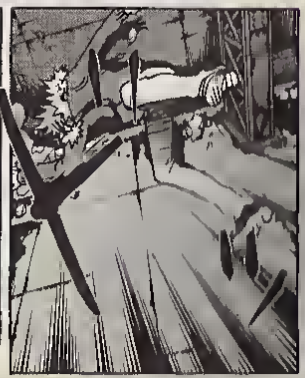

E-BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
SURELY THIS ISN'T JUST A HOBBY TO YOU!
WHY ARE YOU SO ADAMANT ABOUT KILLING THEM? IS IT THAT IMPOR TANT TO HIDE YOUR IDENTITY AS IL RE?
YOU HAD US SET UP THE IGURA TO DISTRIBUTE LINE ONLY TO CUT OFF OUR CUSTOMERS ONCE THEY BECOME ADDICTS.
WHY ARE YOU SO ATACHED TO TOSHIMA?

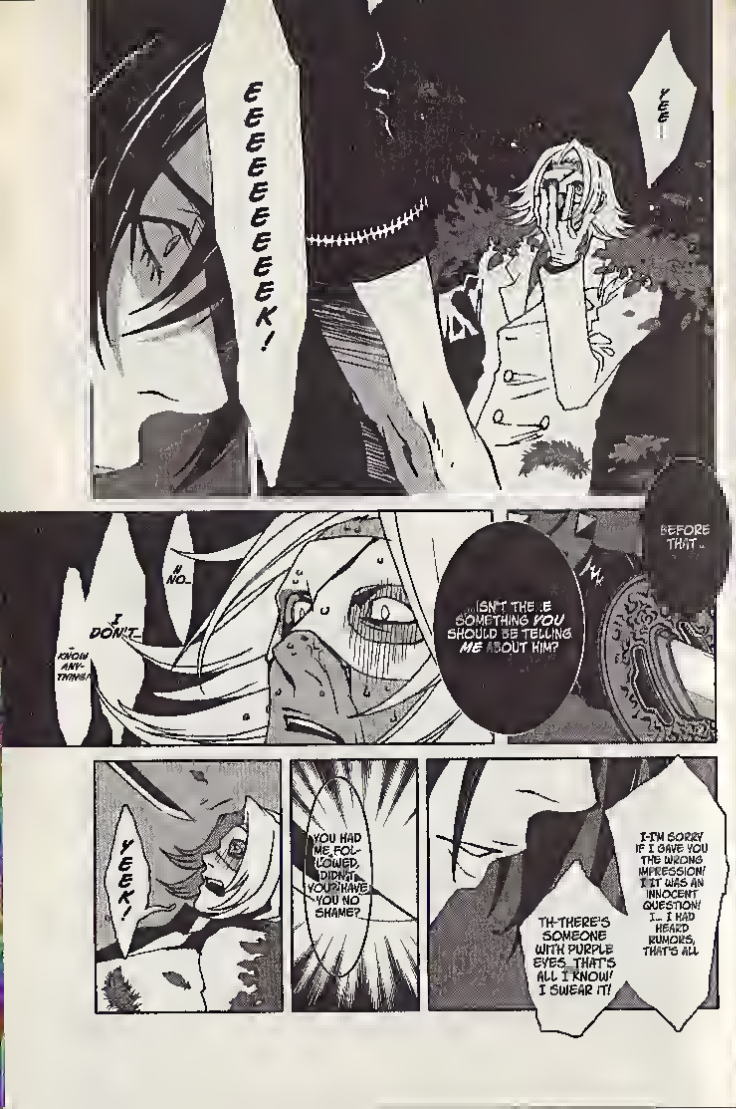

SO TELL ME WHO IS THIS MAN WITH THE PURPLE EYES?
ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE DEARLY AT-TACHED, IF NOT OBSESSED TO GO TO THESE LENGTHS AND YET YOU STILL CLAIM TO DETEST LINE
WHAT IS IT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH HERE? WHY GO SO FAR FOR THE SAKE OF UNDILUTED LINE?
IF YOU ASK ME, I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS THE DELUSORY ATTACHMENT TO LINE!

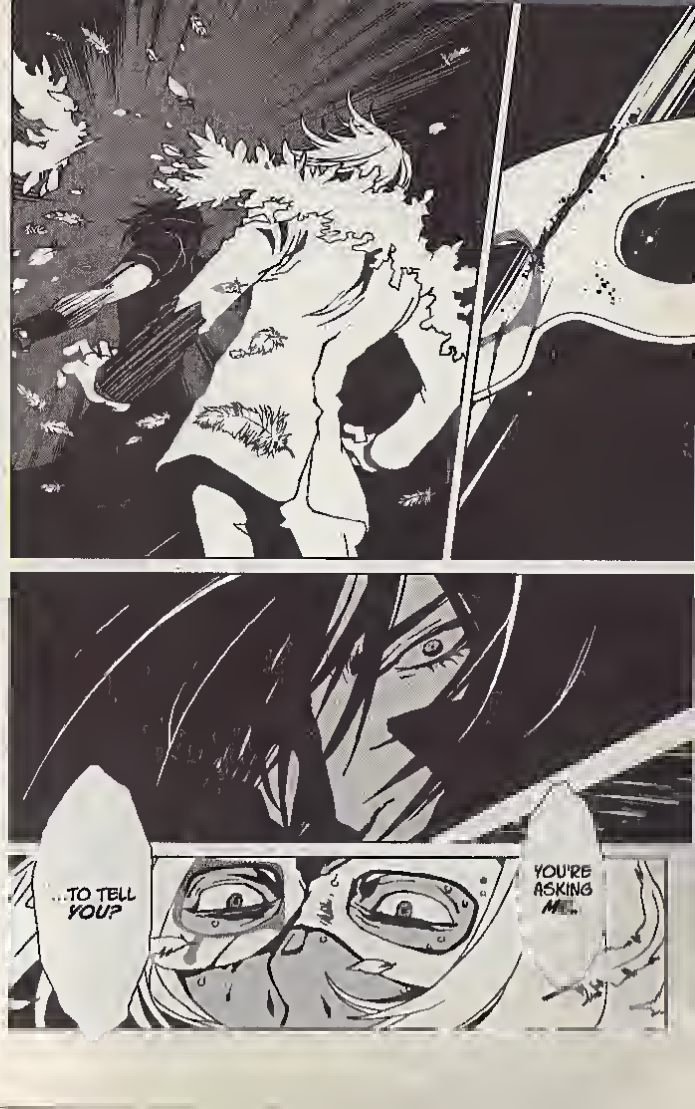


DON'T TRY TO DIE SO PATHETI-CALLY!!
Ngh

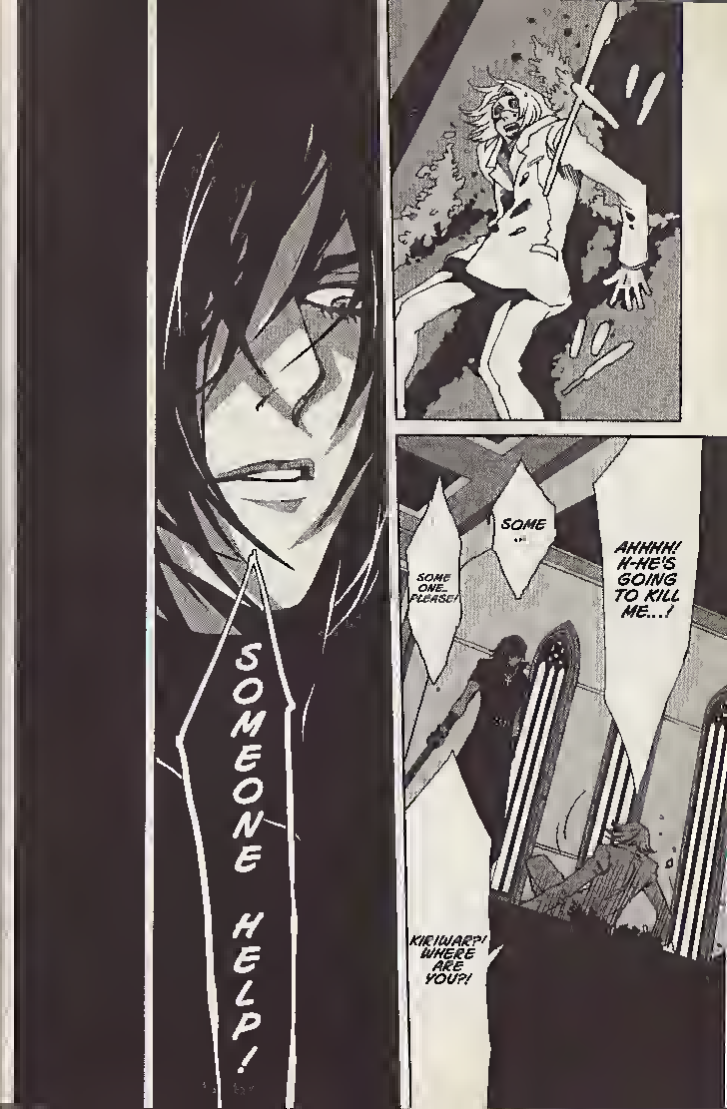
TCH.

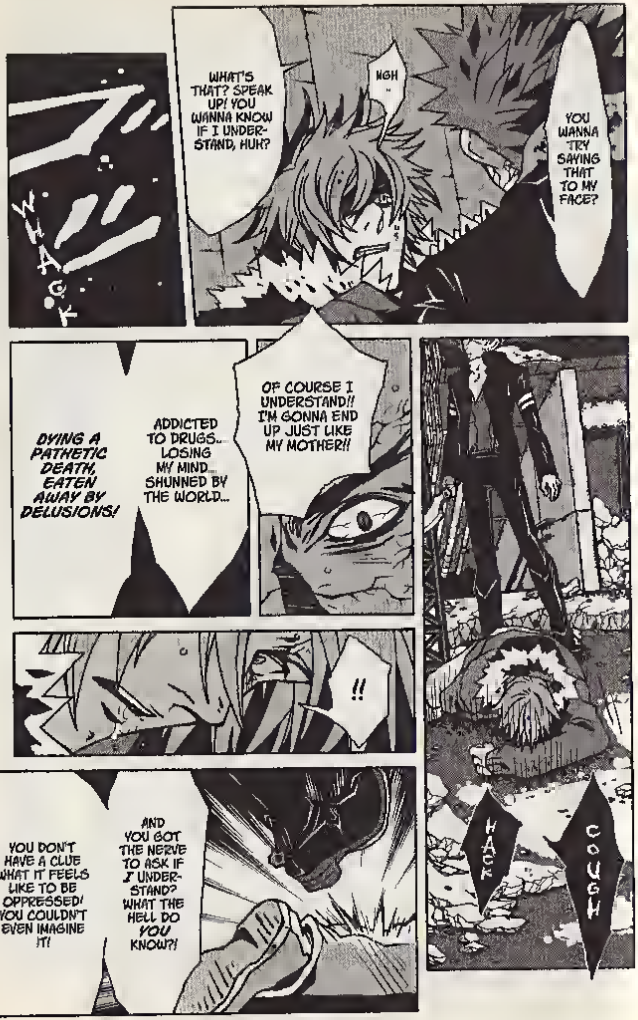



EEEEEEEEEK!
YES...
BEFORE THAT...
HM?
...ISN'T THE ..E SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE TELLING ME ABOUT HIM?
NO...
I DON'T... KNOW ANYTHING!
YEEK!
YOU HAD ME FOLLOWED, DIDN'T YOU? HAVE YOU NO SHAME?
TH-THERE'S SOMEONE WITH PURPLE EYES, THAT'S ALL I KNOW! I SWEAR IT!
I-I'M SORRY IF I GAVE YOU THE WRONG IMPRESSION! IT WAS AN INNOCENT QUESTION! I... I HAD HEARD RUMORS, THAT'S ALL

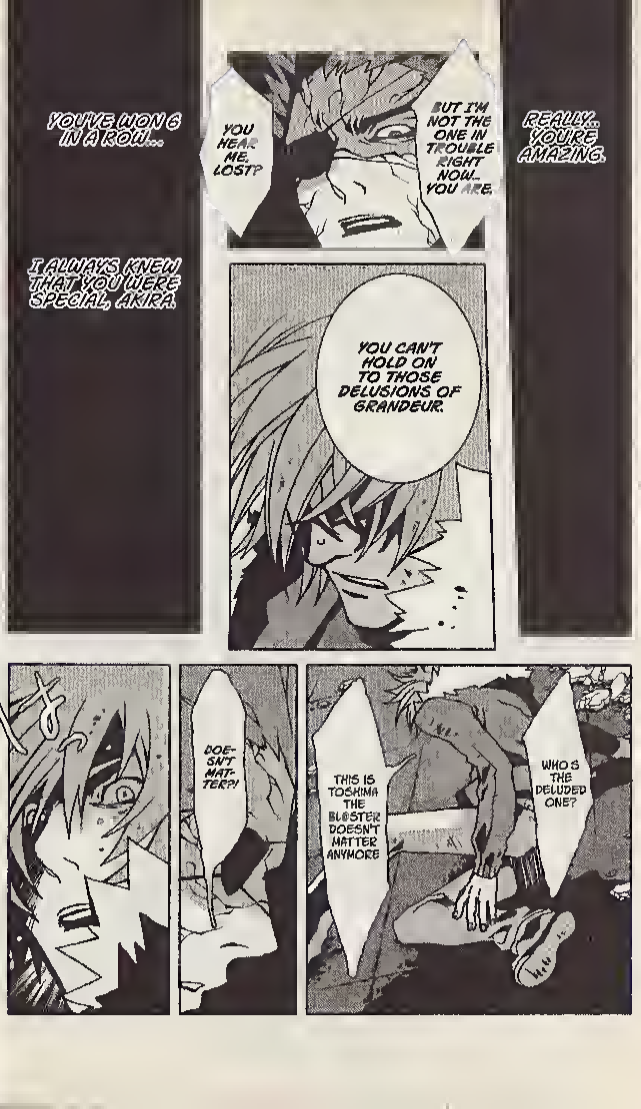

...TO TELL YOU?
YOU'RE ASKING ME...

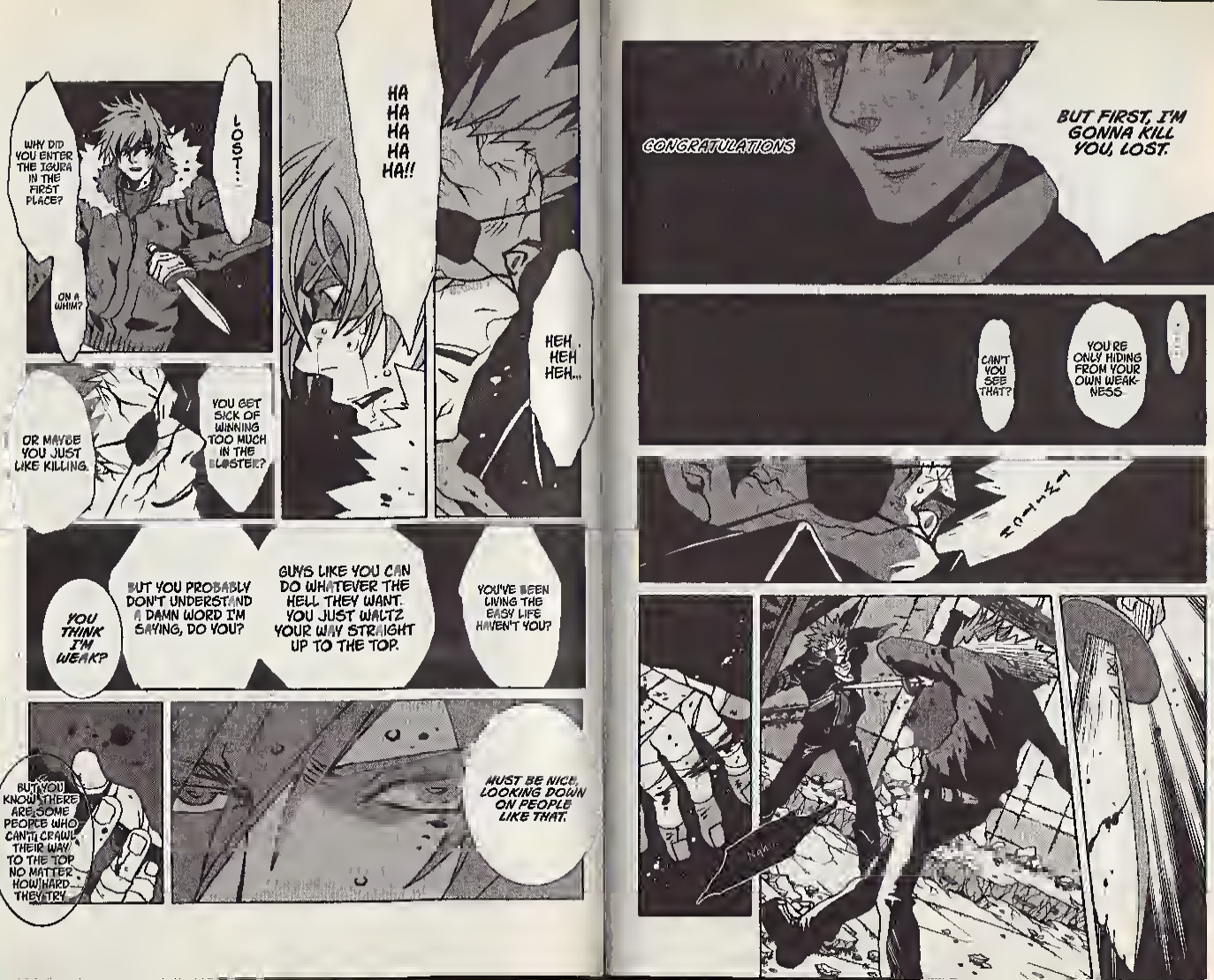
NOW I'M STARTING TO THINK I WAS WASTING MY TIME BY NOT USING IT.
I USED IT SO WHAT?
THAT'S RIGHT
YOU... USED LINE.
YOU'D HAVE TO BE A FOOL TO TURN DOWN POWER LIKE THIS!
I KNOW!

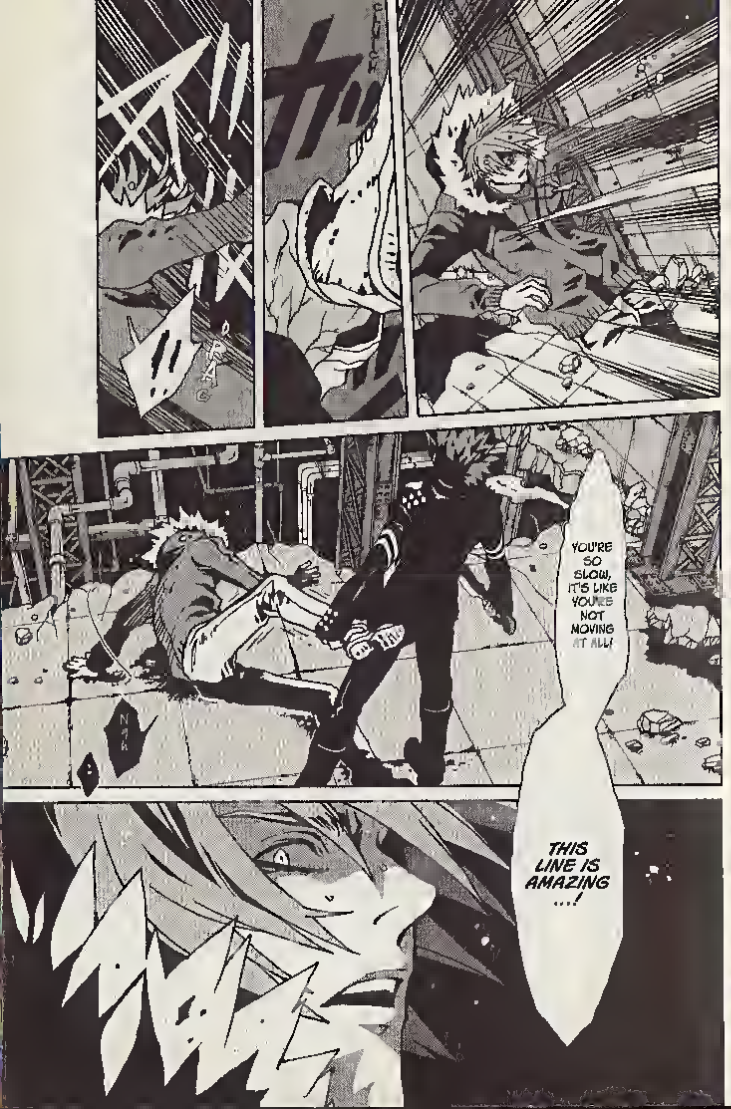

SOMEONE HELP!
SOME...
SOME ONE PLEASE!
AHHHH! H-HE'S GOING TO KILL ME...!
KIRIWARP! WHERE ARE YOU?!

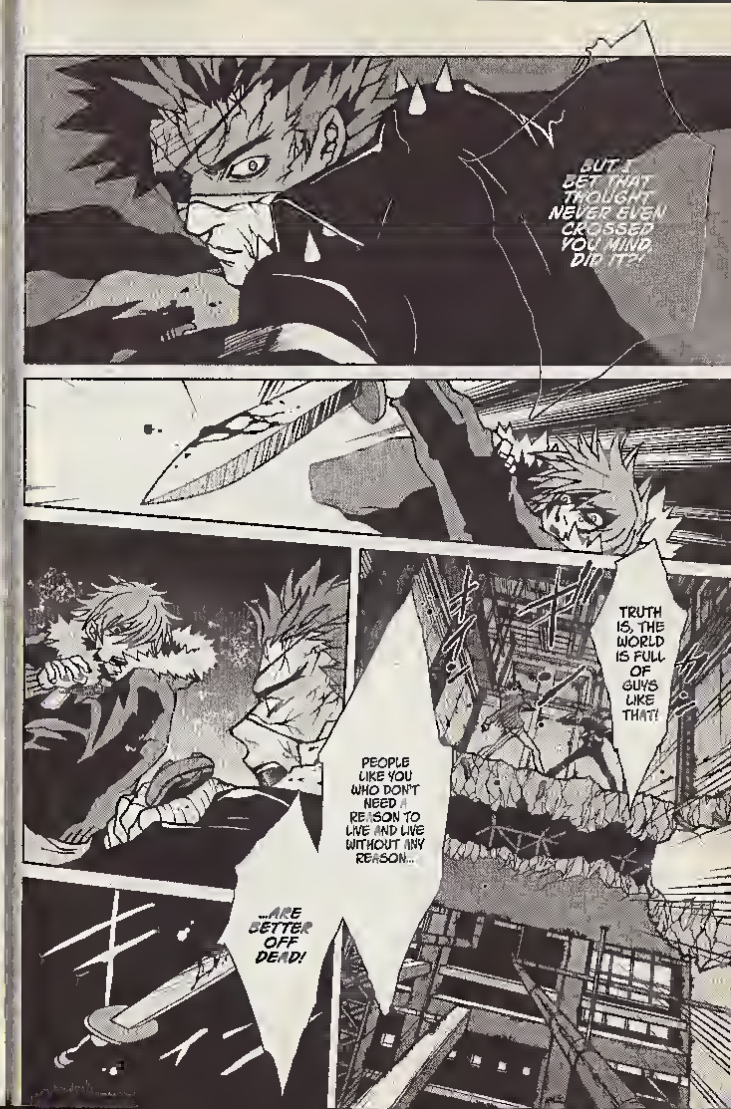

WHACK
WHAT'S THAT? SPEAK UP! YOU WANNA KNOW IF I UNDERSTAND, HUH?
NGH
YOU WANNA TRY SAYING THAT TO MY FACE?
DYING A PATHETIC DEATH, EATEN AWAY BY DELUSIONS!
ADDICTED TO DRUGS.. LOSING MY MIND... SHUNNED BY THE WORLD...
OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND!! I'M GONNA END UP JUST LIKE MY MOTHER!!
!!
YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE OPPRESSED! YOU COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT!
AND YOU GOT THE NERVE TO ASK IF I UNDERSTAND? WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW?!
HACK
COUGH
HYA HA HA HA!
OH, IT WAS JUST A CAT I WONDER IF IT'LL LAND ON ITS FEET?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IF YOU KEEP USING LINE?
"DO I UNDERSTAND?" IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID?

I WORKED SO DAMNED HARD TO TAKE OUT THAT BASTARD CLOGGING UP THE TOP... AND THEN YOU CAME AND RUINED IT ALL!
YOU SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE AND ROBBED ME OF MY PRIZE MONEY, LOST!
YOU TOOK IT ALL AWAY...
LOST!!...
BUT THAT'S FINE 'CAUSE ALL I NEED IS ENOUGH TIME TO KILL THOSE FUCKERS WHO MADE MY FAMILY SUFFER!
AND I'LL KILL ALL THOSE BASTARDS IN THE GOVERNMENT WHILE I'M AT IT!
THE MONEY YOU MAKE IN THE BLOSTER IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT YOU CAN WIN HERE. I CAN BE A KING!
IF I WIN, I'LL GET ALL THE LINE I WANT...ENOUGH TO KILL ME. OR IN THIS CASE... ENOUGH TO KEEP ME ALIVE FOR A WHILE AT LEAST. IF I'M AN ADDICT, I WON'T HAVE LONG TO LIVE, ANYWAY.
HEH...
YOU KNOW, I... I'M GONNA KILL IL RE...


YOU'VE WON 6 IN A ROW...
I ALWAYS KNEW THAT YOU WERE SPECIAL, AKIRA.
YOU HEAR ME, LOST?
BUT I'M NOT THE ONE IN TROUBLE RIGHT NOW... YOU ARE.
REALLY... YOU'RE AMAZING.
YOU CAN'T HOLD ON TO THOSE DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.
DOE-SN'T MAT-TER?
THIS IS TOSHIMA THE BLOSTER DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE
WHO IS THE DELUDED ONE?

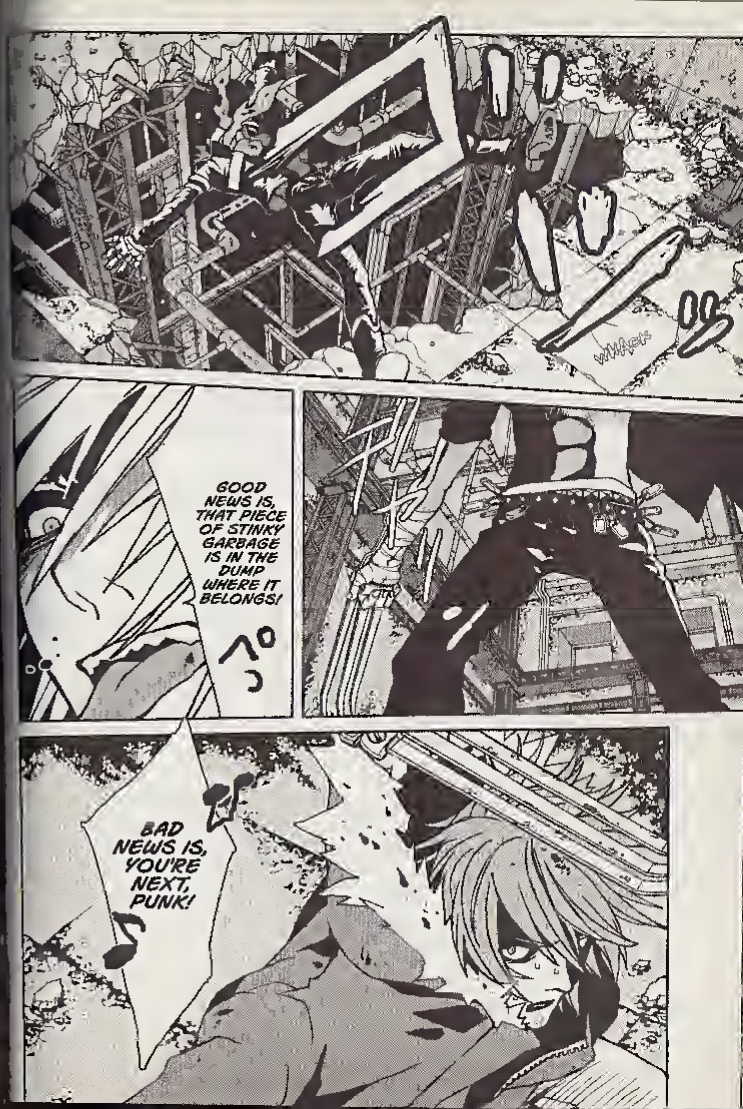

LOST...
WHY DID YOU ENTER THE IGURA IN THE FIRST PLACE?
ON A WHIM?
HA HA HA HA HA!!
HEH. HEH HEH...
OR MAYBE YOU JUST LIKE KILLING.
YOU GET SICK OF WINNING TOO MUCH IN THE BLOCK?
YOU THINK I'M WEAK?
BUT YOU PROBABLY DON'T UNDERSTAND A DAMN WORD I'M SAYING, DO YOU?
GUYS LIKE YOU CAN DO WHATEVER THE HELL THEY WANT. YOU JUST WALTZ YOUR WAY STRAIGHT UP TO THE TOP.
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING THE EASY LIFE HAVEN'T YOU?
BUT YOU KNOW THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO CAN'T CRAWL THEIR WAY TO THE TOP NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY.
MUST BE NICE, LOOKING DOWN ON PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
CONGRATULATIONS
BUT FIRST, I'M GONNA KILL YOU, LOST.
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
YOU'RE ONLY HIDING FROM YOUR OWN WEAKNESS.
Nani!


YOU'RE SO SLOW, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE NOT MOVING AT ALL!
THIS LINE IS AMAZING ...!

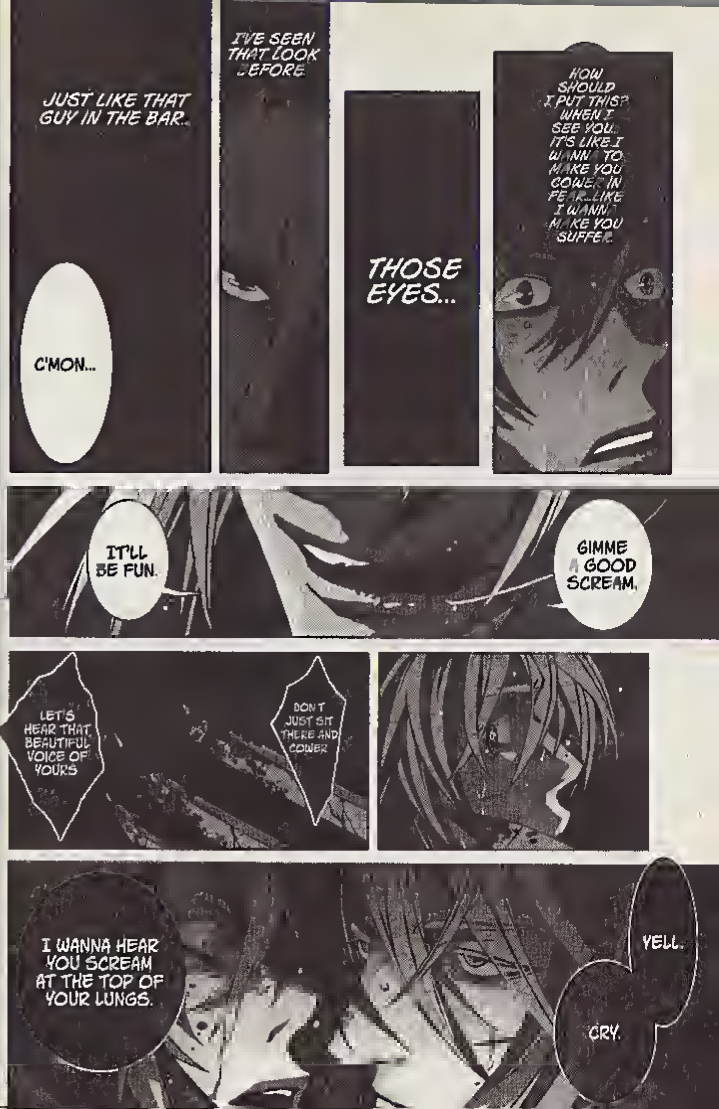

BUT I BET THAT THOUGHT NEVER EVEN CROSSED YOU MIND, DID IT?!
TRUTH IS, THE WORLD IS FULL OF GUYS LIKE THAT!
PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO DON'T NEED A REASON TO LIVE AND LIVE WITHOUT ANY REASON...
...ARE BETTER OFF DEAD!

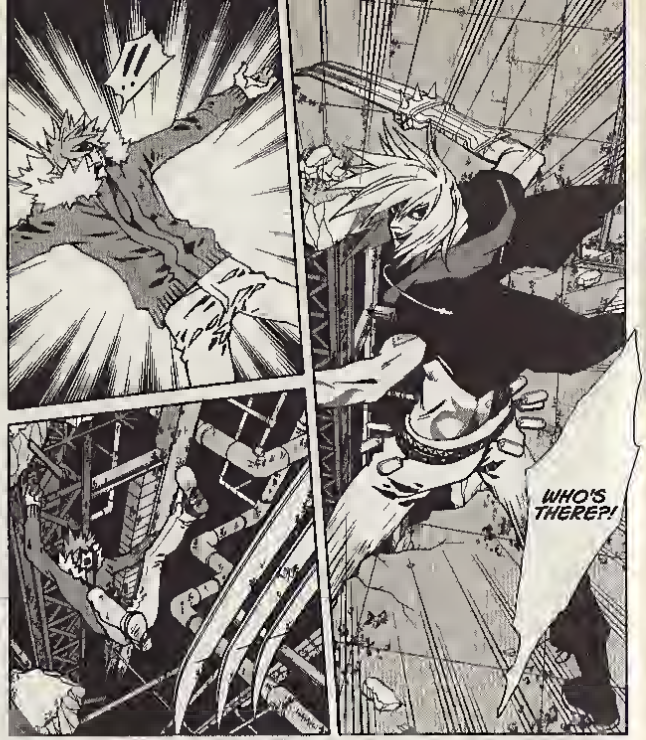
RIGHT NOW I'M NOT EVEN AFRAID OF THE EXECU-TIONERS!

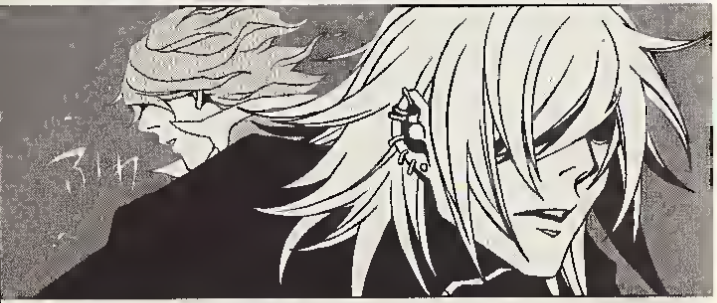
AAAHH...!
NKK...
カラン...
Dog Tags
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THOSE STINKING MAGGOTS USING LINE.
YOU'RE DIFFERENT... I CAN TELL BY THE LOOK IN YOUR EYE.

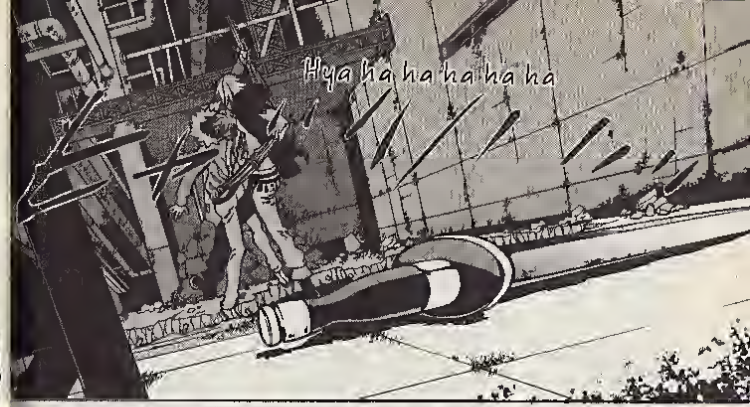

GOOD NEWS IS, THAT PIECE OF STINKY GARBAGE IS IN THE DUMP WHERE IT BELONGS!
BAD NEWS IS, YOU'RE NEXT, PUNK!

S-STOP IT..
THAT'S NO GOOD.
'CAUSE IF YOU CAN'T, I MIGHT GET BORED AND THROW YOU AWAY
I KNOW YOU CAN GIVE ME A BETTER SCREAM THAN THAT.
IT'S PURE INSANITY.
H...!!
GIMME SOMETHING TO GET MY BLOOD PUMPING!
I HAVE TO ESCAPE.
MORE.
C'MON, TRY SAYING IT LOUDER.
GIMME MORE!
GH!
H...!!


JUST LIKE THAT GUY IN THE BAR..
C'MON...
I'VE SEEN THAT LOOK BEFORE.
THOSE EYES...
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS? WHEN I SEE YOU, IT'S LIKE I WANN TO MAKE YOU COWE.. IN FE...LIKE I WANN MAKE YOU SUFFE.
IT'LL BE FUN.
GIMME A GOOD SCREAM.
LET'S HEAR THAT BEAUTIFUL VOICE OF YOURS
DON'T JUST SIT THERE AND COWER
I WANNA HEAR YOU SCREAM AT THE TOP OF YOUR LUNGS.
YELL.
CRY.


!!
WHO'S THERE?!




Hya ha ha ha ha ha

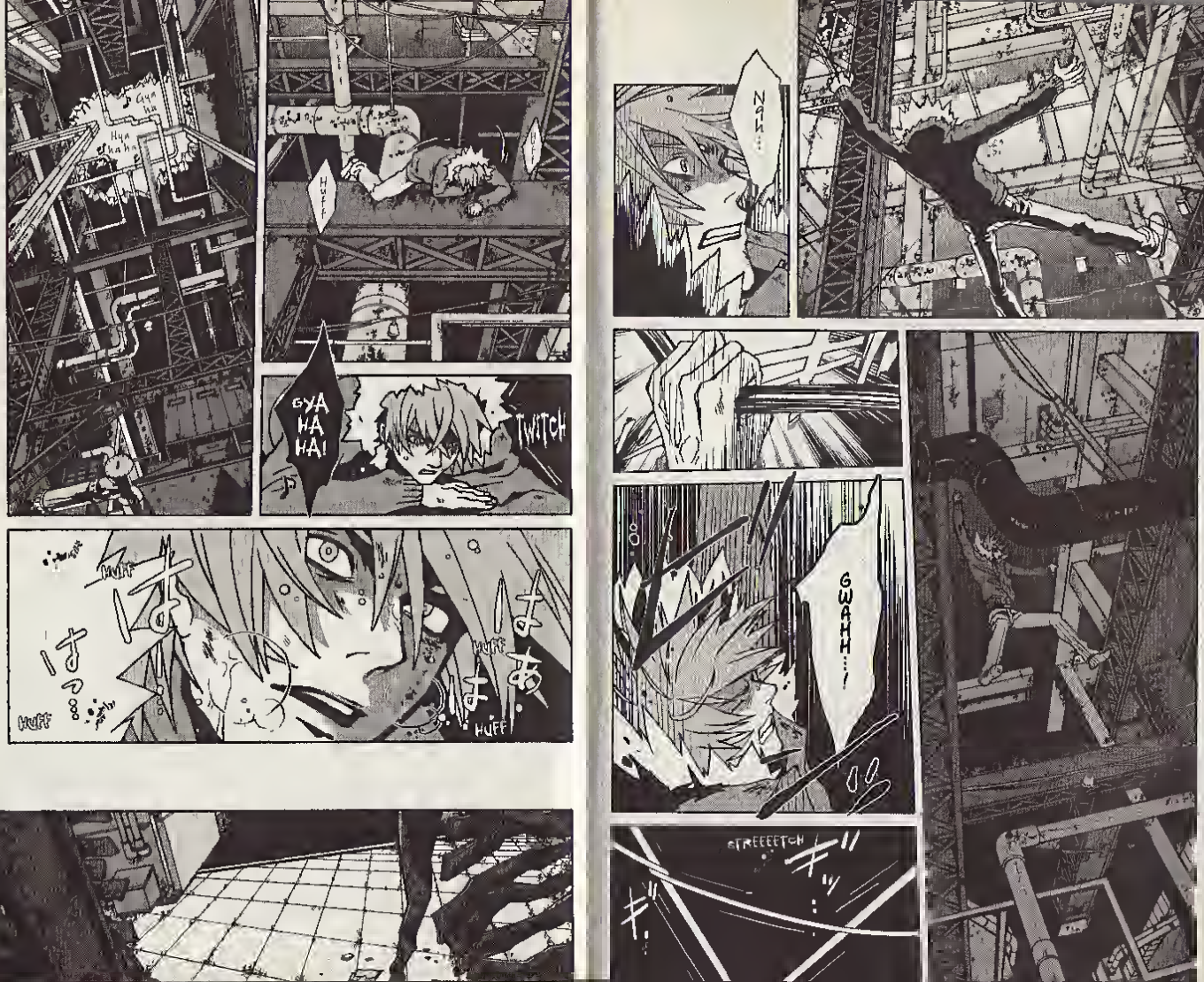
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME.

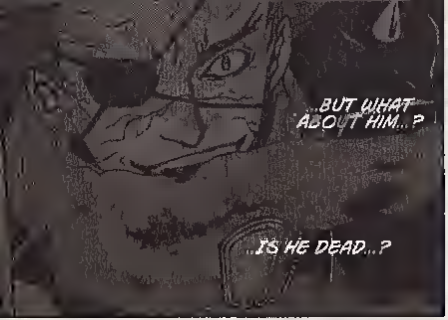
CHUNK

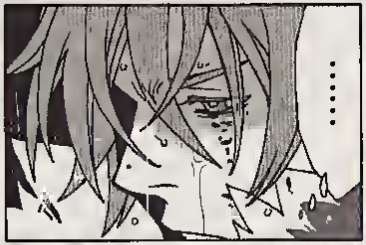
SHATTER
CRACK

SCREECH
OOOOOH... WHO ARE YOU?
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE.
THIS SHOULD BE FUN!

CLANG
WHOOSH


Gya ha ha ha ha
Huff
Gya ha ha!
Twitch
はぁ はぁ
Huff
Huff
Huff
Nah...
Gwahh...!
Streeeetch


...BUT WHAT ABOUT HIM...?
...IS HE DEAD...?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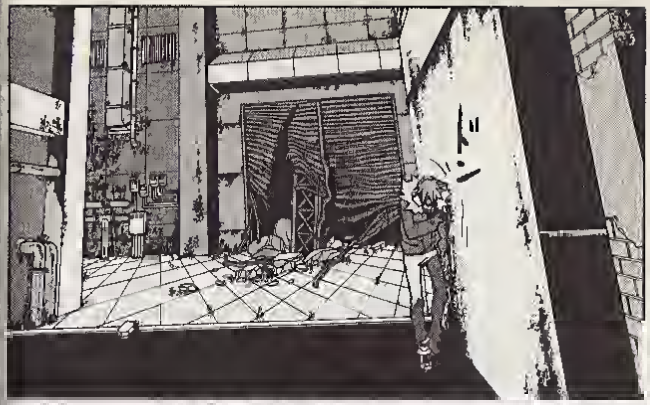
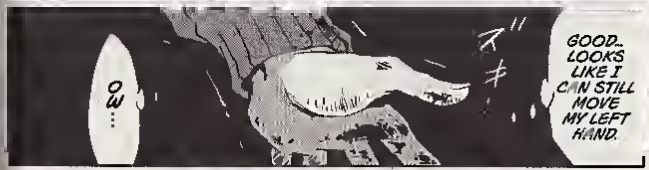
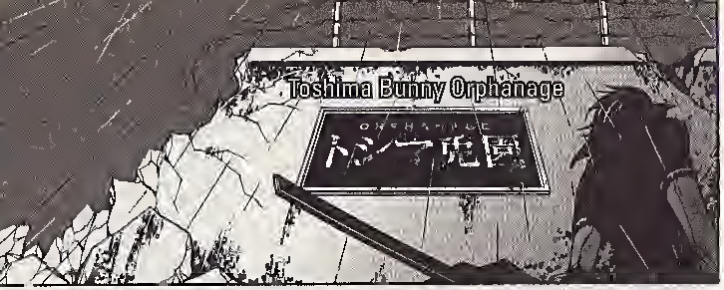
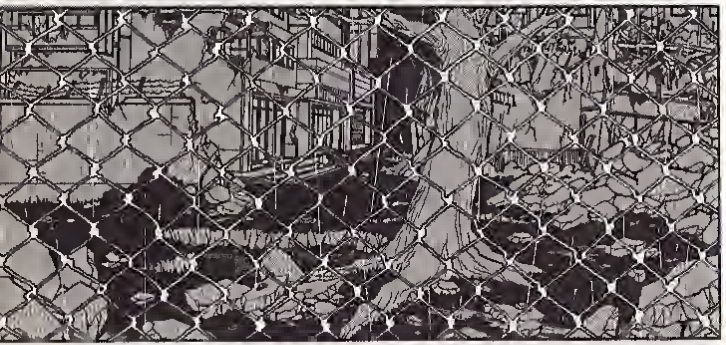



OW...
GOOD. LOOKS LIKE I CAN STILL MOVE MY LEFT HAND.

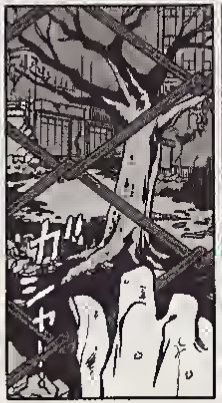
IT SURVIVED

WHEW

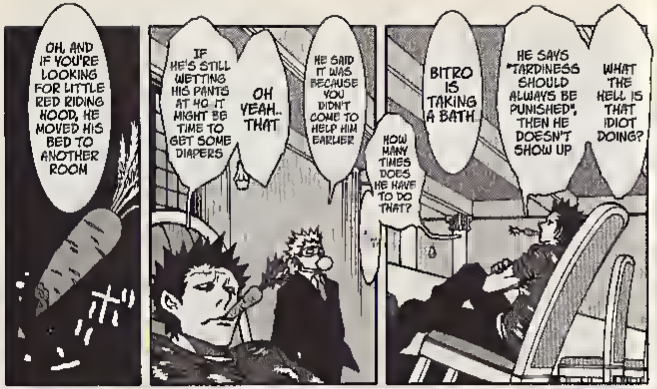

Toshima Bunny Orphanage
ORPHANAGE
トシマ兎園

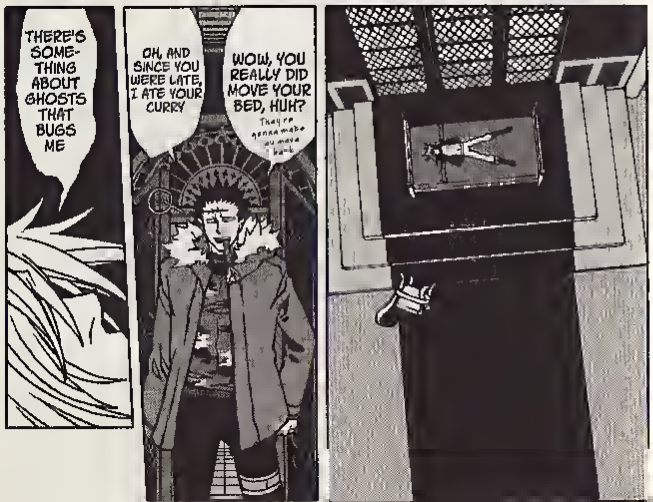


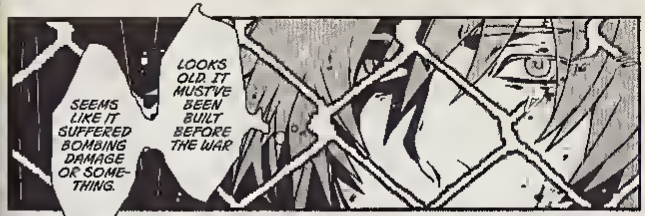
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?


カ!!
ニャ

Toshima Bunny Orphanage

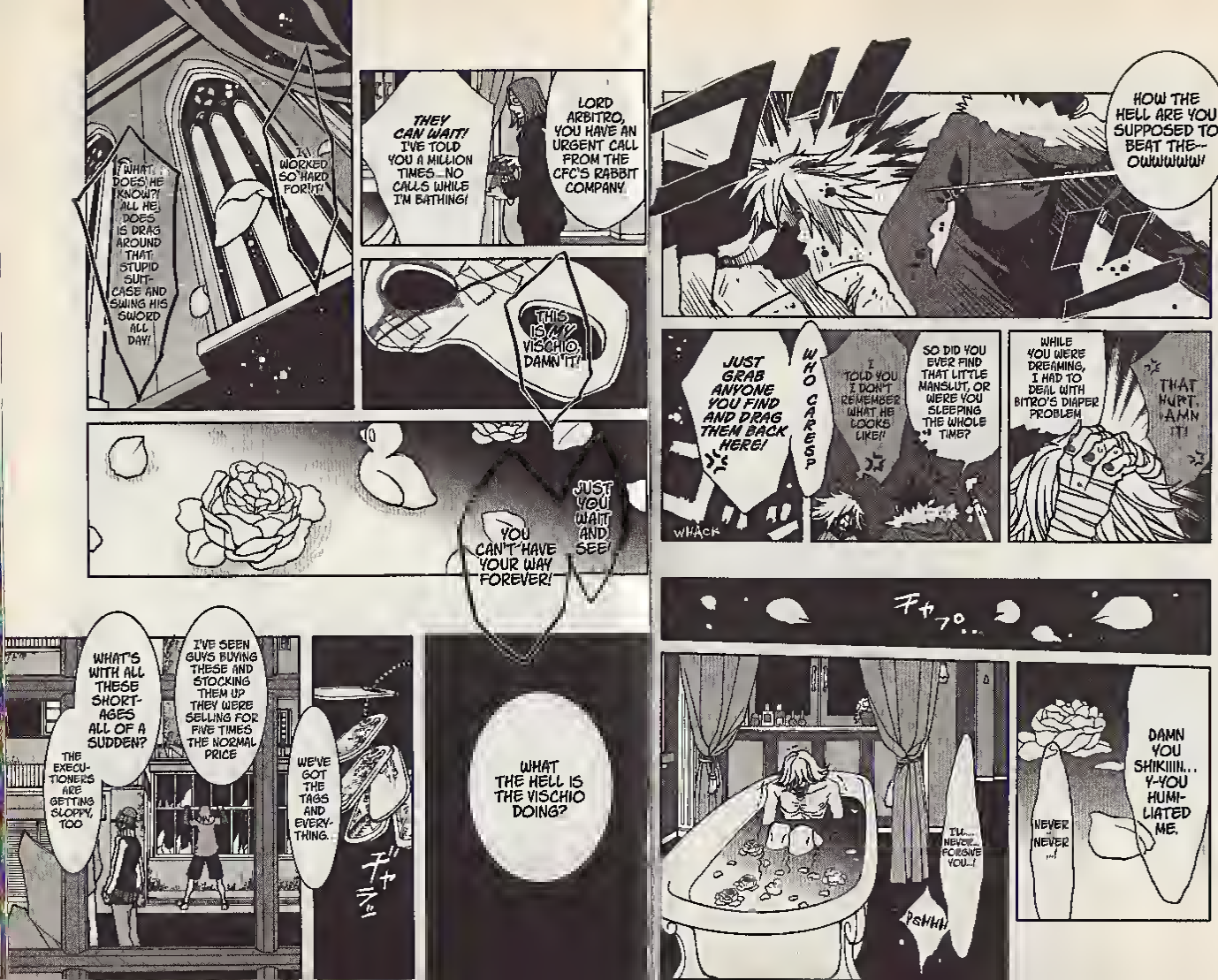

OH, AND IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD, HE MOVED HIS BED TO ANOTHER ROOM
IF HE'S STILL WETTING HIS PANTS AT 40, IT MIGHT BE TIME TO GET SOME DIAPERS
OH YEAH.. THAT
HE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T COME TO HELP HIM EARLIER
HOW MANY TIMES DOES HE HAVE TO DO THAT?
BITRO IS TAKING A BATH
HE SAYS "TARDINESS SHOULD ALWAYS BE PUNISHED", THEN HE DOESN'T SHOW UP
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT IDIOT DOING?

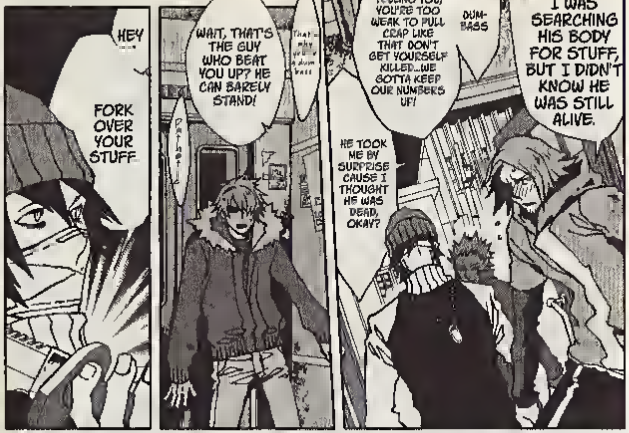

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT GHOSTS THAT BUGS ME
OH, AND SINCE YOU WERE LATE, I ATE YOUR CURRY
WOW, YOU REALLY DID MOVE YOUR BED, HUH?
They're gonna make us move back.

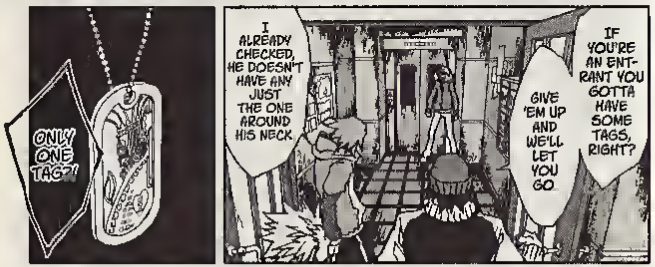

LOOKS OLD. IT MUST'VE BEEN BUILT BEFORE THE WAR
SEEMS LIKE IT SUFFERED BOMBING DAMAGE OR SOMETHING.

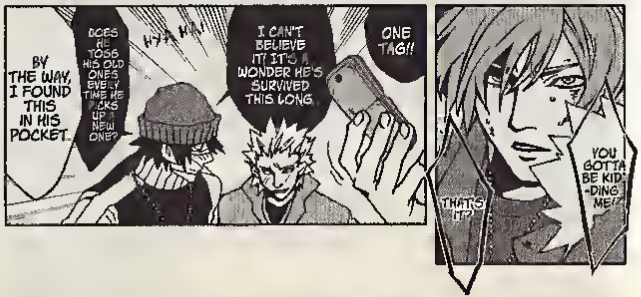
KEEP OUT
ORPHANAGE

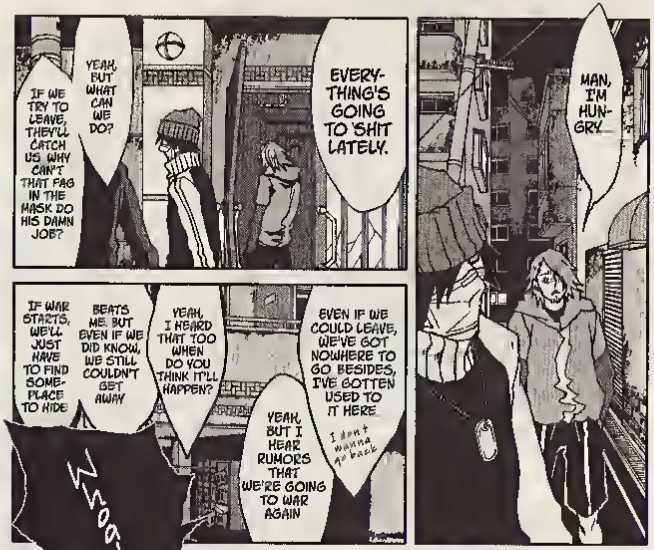
HE'S LATE, AND IT'S CURRY NIGHT, TOO...

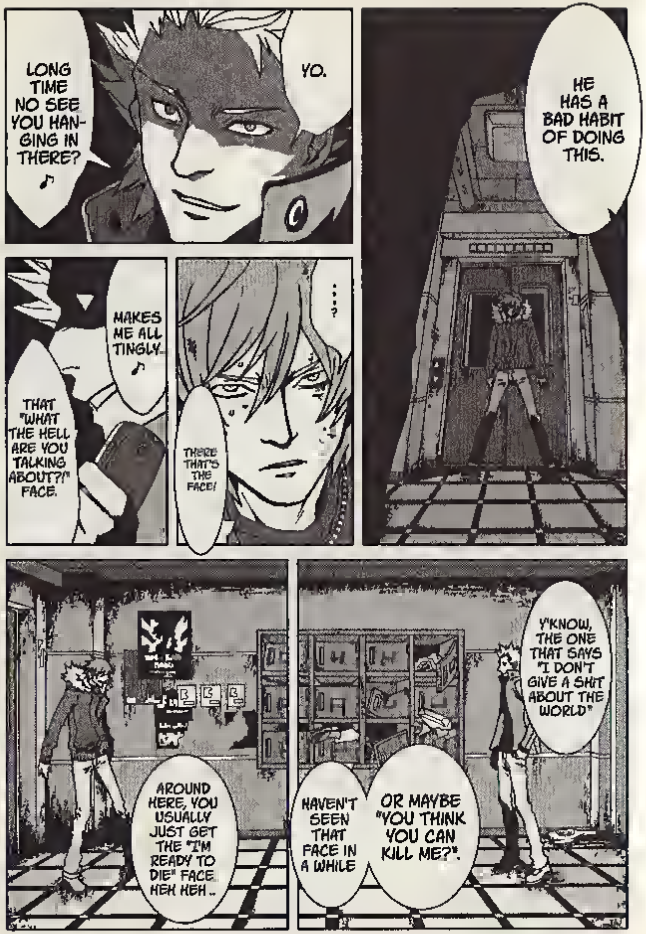

I WORKED SO HARD FOR IT!
WHAT DOES HE KNOW?! ALL HE DOES IS DRAG AROUND THAT STUPID SUIT-CASE AND SWING HIS SWORD ALL DAY!
THEY CAN WAIT! I'VE TOLD YOU A MILLION TIMES--NO CALLS WHILE I'M BATHING!
LORD ARBITRO, YOU HAVE AN URGENT CALL FROM THE CFC'S RABBIT COMPANY.
THIS IS... VISCHIO, DAMN IT!
JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!
YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR WAY FOREVER!
HOW THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BEAT THE-- OWWWWW!
JUST GRAB ANYONE YOU FIND AND DRAG THEM BACK HERE!
WHO CARES?
WHACK
I TOLD YOU I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!!
SO DID YOU EVER FIND THAT LITTLE MANSLUT, OR WERE YOU SLEEPING THE WHOLE TIME?
WHILE YOU WERE DREAMING, I HAD TO DEAL WITH BITRO'S DIAPER PROBLEM
THAT HURT, DAMN IT!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE SHORT-AGES ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I'VE SEEN GUYS BUYING THESE AND STOCKING THEM UP THEY WERE SELLING FOR FIVE TIMES THE NORMAL PRICE
THE EXECU-TIONERS ARE GETTING SLOPPY, TOO
WE'VE GOT THE TAGS AND EVERY-THING.
WHAT THE HELL IS THE VISCHIO DOING?
I'LL... NEVER... FORGIVE YOU...!
PSHHH
NEVER... NEVER...!
DAMN YOU SHIK!!!!!... Y-YOU HUMI-LIATED ME.

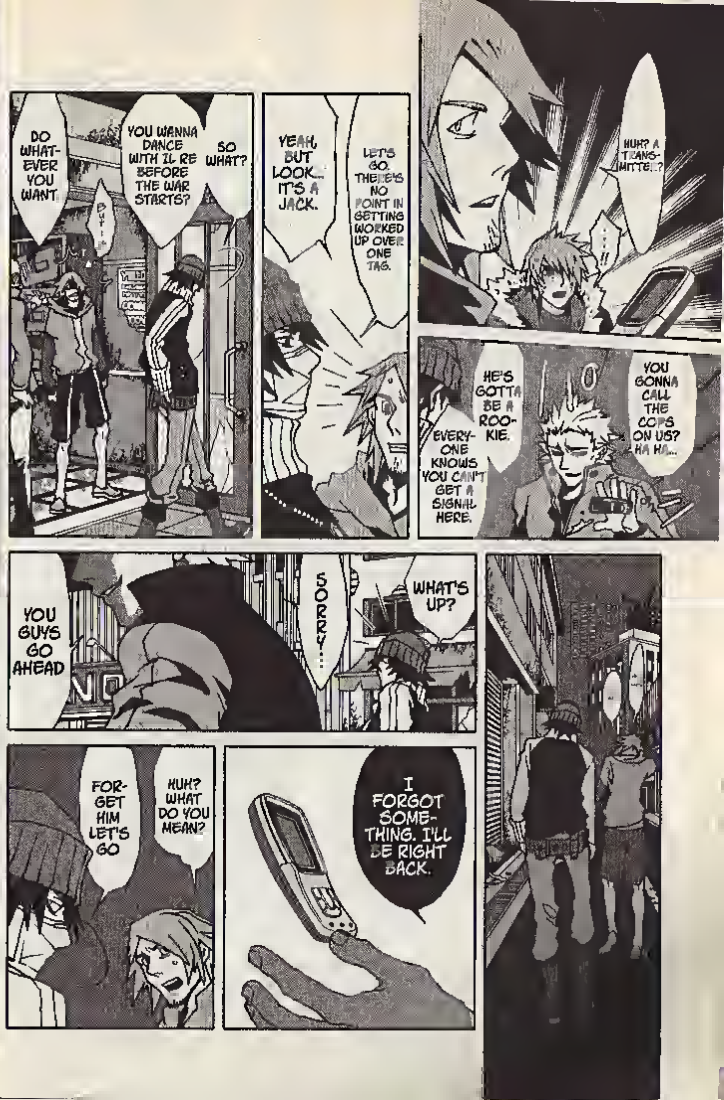

HEY
FORK OVER YOUR STUFF.
WAIT, THAT'S THE GUY WHO BEAT YOU UP? HE CAN BARELY STAND!
THAT'S HIM, I'M SURE!
DARING?
I KEEP TELLING YOU, YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO PULL CRAP LIKE THAT! DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED...WE GOTTA KEEP OUR NUMBERS UP!
DUM-BASS
HE TOOK ME BY SURPRISE CAUSE I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD, OKAY?
Damn... that punk kicked me
I WAS SEARCHING HIS BODY FOR STUFF, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS STILL ALIVE.


ONLY ONE TAG?!
I ALREADY CHECKED, HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY JUST THE ONE AROUND HIS NECK
GIVE 'EM UP AND WE'LL LET YOU GO
IF YOU'RE AN ENTRANT YOU GOTTA HAVE SOME TAGS, RIGHT?

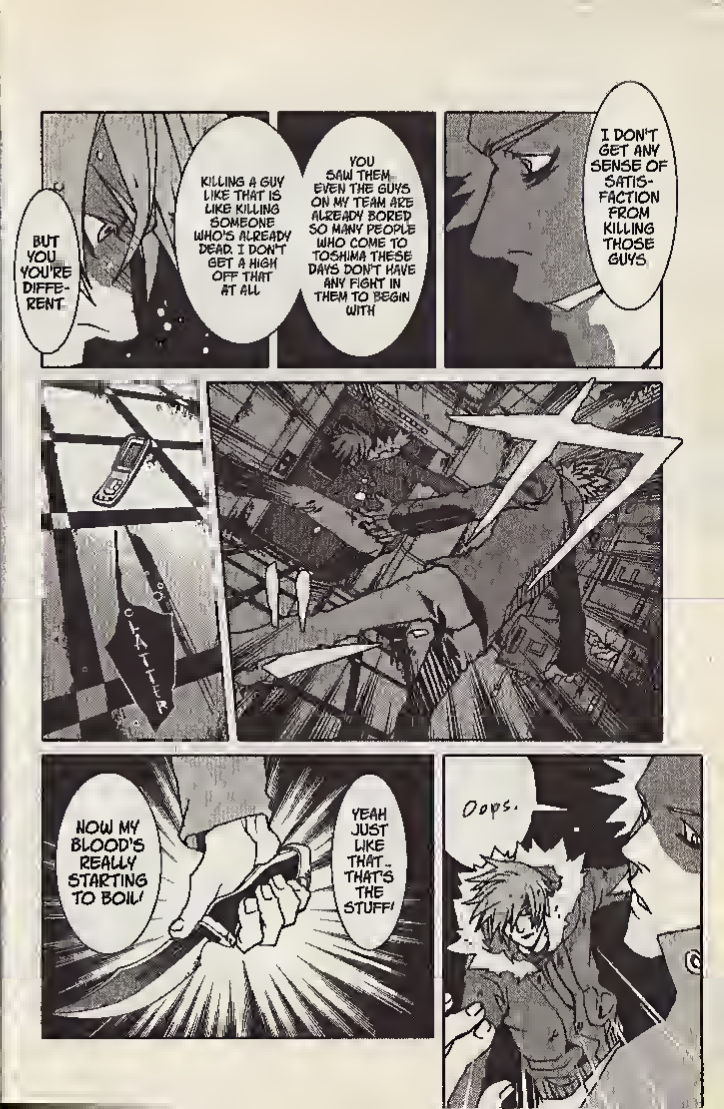

BY THE WAY, I FOUND THIS IN HIS POCKET.
DOES HE TOSS HIS OLD ONES EVERY TIME HE PICKS UP A NEW ONE?
HYA HA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S A WONDER HE'S SURVIVED THIS LONG.
ONE TAG!!
THAT'S IT?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

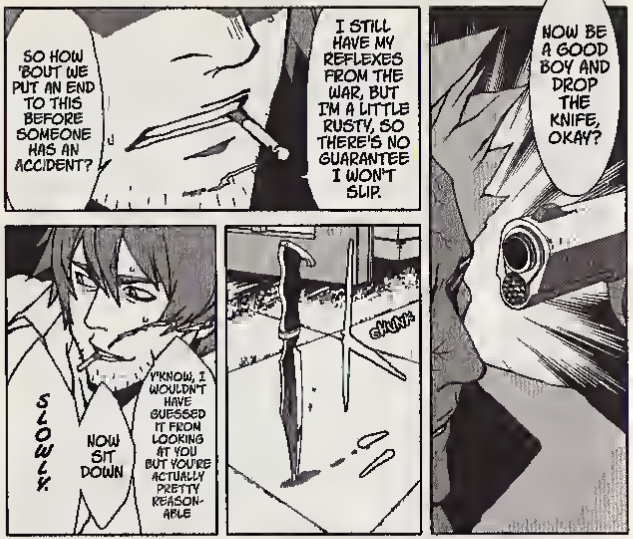

IF WE TRY TO LEAVE, THEY'LL CATCH US. WHY CAN'T THAT FAG IN THE MASK DO HIS DAMN JOB?
YEAH, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO SHIT LATELY.
MAN, I'M HUNGRY...
IF WAR STARTS, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND SOME-PLACE TO HIDE
BEATS ME. BUT EVEN IF WE DID KNOW, WE STILL COULDN'T GET AWAY
YEAH, I HEARD THAT TOO WHEN DO YOU THINK IT'LL HAPPEN?
YEAH, BUT I HEAR RUMORS THAT WE'RE GOING TO WAR AGAIN
EVEN IF WE COULD LEAVE, WE'VE GOT NOWHERE TO GO. BESIDES, I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT HERE.
I don't wanna go back
WROOM.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

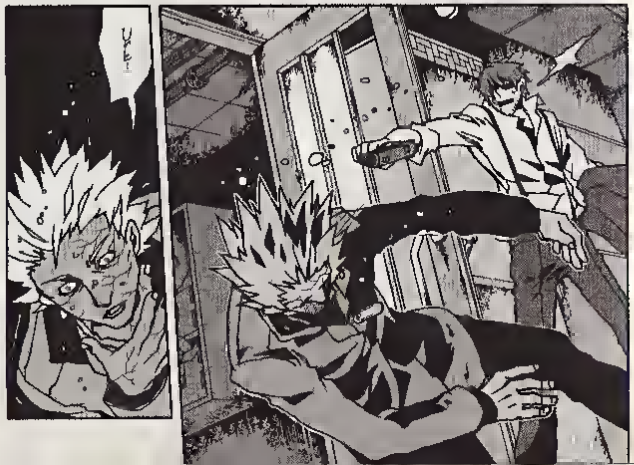

LONG TIME NO SEE YOU HANGING IN THERE? ♪
YO.
MAKES ME ALL TINGLY... ♪
THAT "WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!" FACE.
...?
THERE THAT'S THE FACE!
HE HAS A BAD HABIT OF DOING THIS.
AROUND HERE, YOU USUALLY JUST GET THE "I'M READY TO DIE" FACE. HEH HEH..
HAVEN'T SEEN THAT FACE IN A WHILE
OR MAYBE "YOU THINK YOU CAN KILL ME?".
Y'KNOW, THE ONE THAT SAYS "I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT THE WORLD"

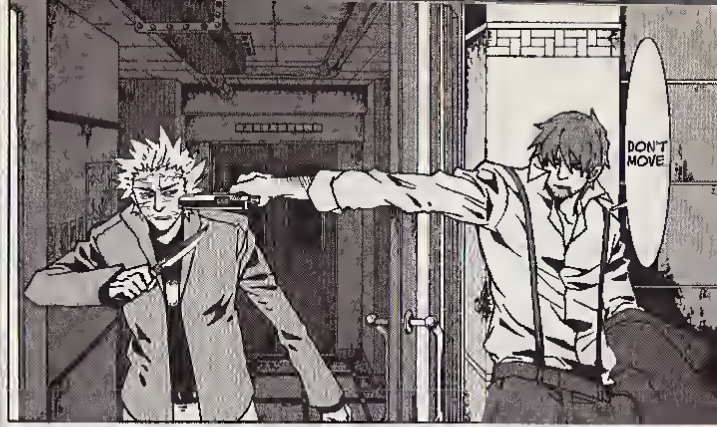

DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
YOU WANNA DANCE WITH IL RE BEFORE THE WAR STARTS?
SO WHAT?
YEAH, BUT LOOK... IT'S A JACK.
LET'S GO. THERE'S NO POINT IN GETTING WORKED UP OVER ONE TAG.
HUH? A TRANSMITTER...?
EVERYONE KNOWS YOU CAN'T GET A SIGNAL HERE.
HE'S GOTTA BE A ROOKIE.
YOU GONNA CALL THE COPS ON US? HA HA...
YOU GUYS GO AHEAD
SORRY...
WHAT'S UP?
FORGET HIM LET'S GO
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I FORGOT SOMETHING. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

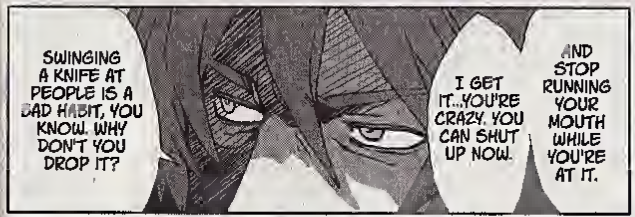
HYA HA HA HA!
UNTIL I PAINT THE ROOM WITH YOUR BLOOD!
JUST LIKE THAT! STAY WITH ME TO THE END!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
WITH THAT KINDA SPEED, YOU'D BE UNSTOPPABLE IF YOU USED LINE.
CLANK!
HYA HA!
YOU'RE THE FIRST GOOD HIT I'VE HAD IN A WHILE.
MAN, I'M GETTING PUMPED..
SHAME I GOTTA KILL YOU.


BUT YOU YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
KILLING A GUY LIKE THAT IS LIKE KILLING SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY DEAD. I DON'T GET A HIGH OFF THAT AT ALL
YOU SAW THEM. EVEN THE GUYS ON MY TEAM ARE ALREADY BORED SO MANY PEOPLE WHO COME TO TOSHIMA THESE DAYS DON'T HAVE ANY FIGHT IN THEM TO BEGIN WITH
I DON'T GET ANY SENSE OF SATISFACTION FROM KILLING THOSE GUYS.
SO UNTIL
NOW MY BLOOD'S REALLY STARTING TO BOIL!
YEAH JUST LIKE THAT.. THAT'S THE STUFF!
Oops.


SO HOW 'BOUT WE PUT AN END TO THIS BEFORE SOMEONE HAS AN ACCIDENT?
I STILL HAVE MY REFLEXES FROM THE WAR, BUT I'M A LITTLE RUSTY, SO THERE'S NO GUARANTEE I WON'T SLIP.
NOW BE A GOOD BOY AND DROP THE KNIFE, OKAY?
SLOWLY.
NOW SIT DOWN
Y'KNOW, I WOULDN'T HAVE GUESSED IT FROM LOOKING AT YOU BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY REASONABLE
CHUNK


UH!

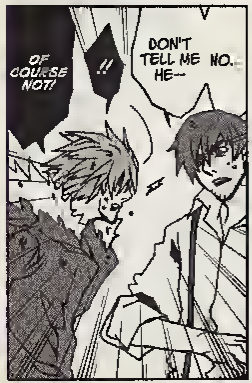

DON'T MOVE


SWINGING A KNIFE AT PEOPLE IS A BAD HABIT, YOU KNOW. WHY DON'T YOU DROP IT?
I GET IT...YOU'RE CRAZY. YOU CAN SHUT UP NOW.
AND STOP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.

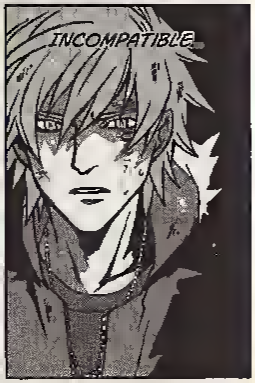
IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE, BOTH OF YOU BETTER STAY STILL, GOT IT?
IF YOU MOVE MY INDEX FINGER IS GONNA JUMP
NOT EVEN AN INCH, OKAY?

DON'T MOVE, AKIRA!
AH!

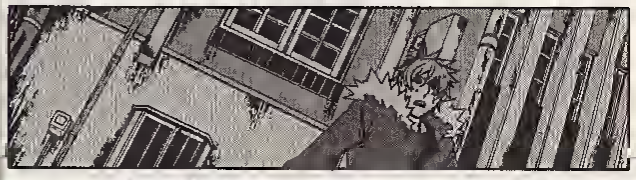
YEAH, I DOUBT HE'LL SURVIVE
INCOMPA-TIBILITY?
HE SURE PICKED A NICE TIME TO SHOW INCOMPA-TIBILITY SYMPTOMS, THOUGH
WELL, NICE FOR US AT LEAST.
Phew


OF COURSE NOT!
!!
DON'T TELL ME HE—
NO...

I DON'T SEE KEISUKE. DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
THIS FEELING... I'VE HAD IT BEFORE.


INCOMPATIBLE

GVAAHHHHHH!!
GRGHH
UGHHHHH
GHRRRGGH
GURGKHH...

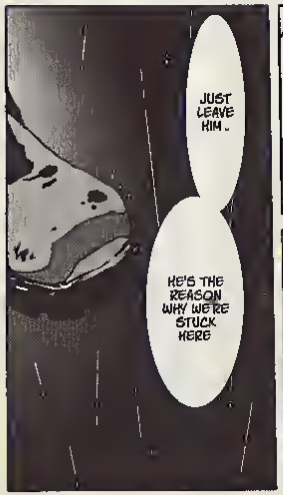


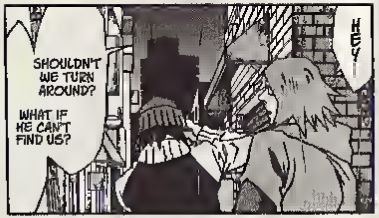
YOU'RE COVE-RED IN BLOOD!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

AKIRA!!

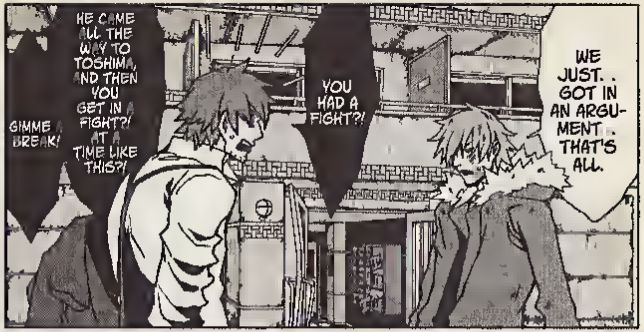
THIS AREA IS FULL OF CRAZIES, YOU HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL
OLD MAN..
I SWEAR... YOU LIKE TO MAKE ME WORRY, DON'T YOU?

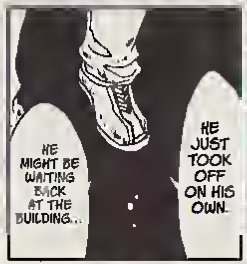
AKIRA!!


JUST LEAVE HIM.
HE'S THE REASON WHY WE'RE STUCK HERE

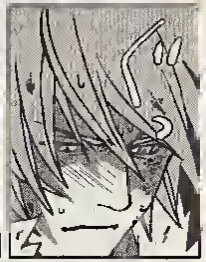

HEY!
SHOULDN'T WE TURN AROUND?
WHAT IF HE CAN'T FIND US?

FOR-GET HIM
GYA HA HA HA!!


GIMME BREAK!
HE CAME ALL THE WAY TO TOSHIMA, AND THEN YOU GET IN A FIGHT?! AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
YOU HAD A FIGHT?!
WE JUST.. GOT IN AN ARGU-MENT. THAT'S ALL.


HE MIGHT BE WAITING BACK AT THE BUILDING...
HE JUST TOOK OFF ON HIS OWN.

WHAT ABOUT :IN?
DID YOU SPLIT UP WITH HIM, TOO?



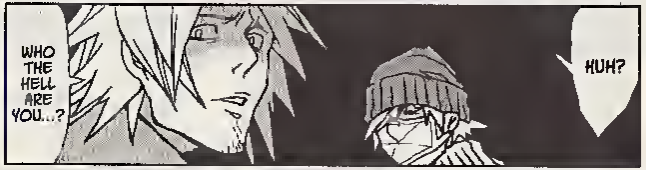
YEAH...

LEAD ME THERE
WHICH WAY?
...

IF WE GO THERE, YOU THINK WE'LL FIND THEM?
I COULD SHOW YOU THE WAY.
BUILDING? WHAT BUILDING?

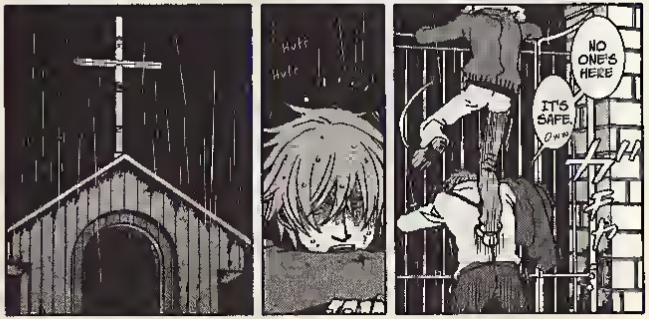
Dog Tag 18

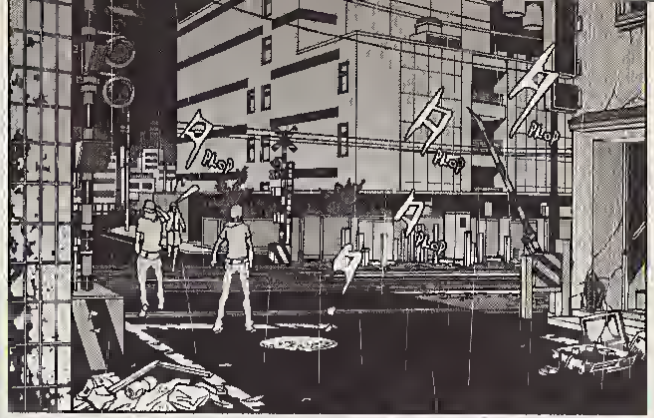
I HEAR HE'S GOT A THING FOR CORPSES, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
ALTHOUGH I GUESS THAT'S PRETTY COMMON IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
UH

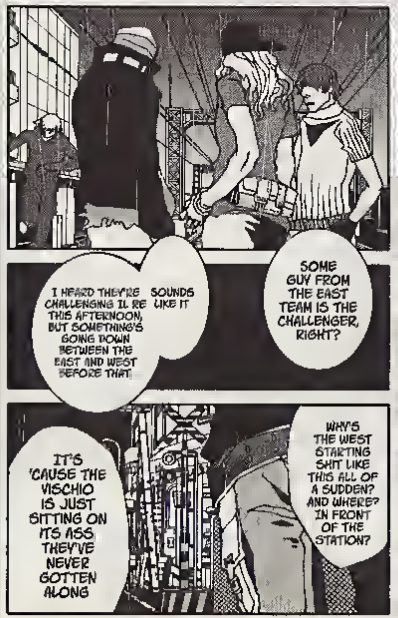

HUH?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU...?

CRACKKKKK

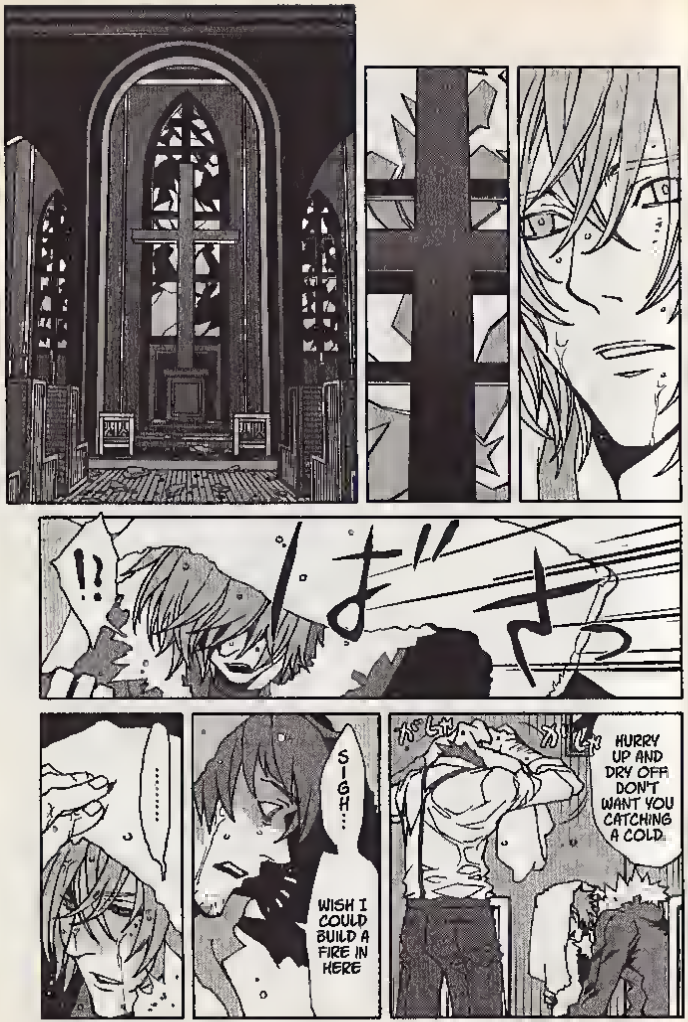
JUST A LITTLE MORE.
WE CAN CLIMB OVER THE GATE
THAT'S THE PLACE


Huff
Huff
NO ONE'S HERE
IT'S SAFE.


Flop
Flop
Flop


I HEARD THEY'RE CHALLENGING IL RE THIS AFTERNOON, BUT SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST BEFORE THAT.
SOUNDS LIKE IT
SOME GUY FROM THE EAST TEAM IS THE CHALLENGER, RIGHT?
IT'S 'CAUSE THE VISCHIO IS JUST SITTING ON ITS ASS THEY'VE NEVER GOTTEN ALONG
WHY'S THE WEST STARTING SHIT LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN? AND WHERE? IN FRONT OF THE STATION?

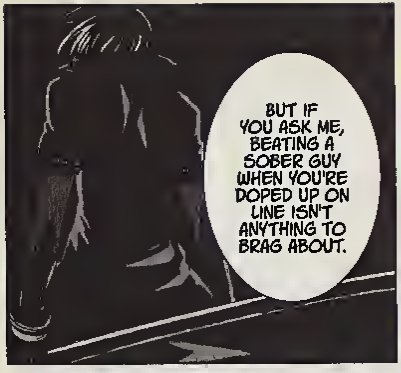
They're coming

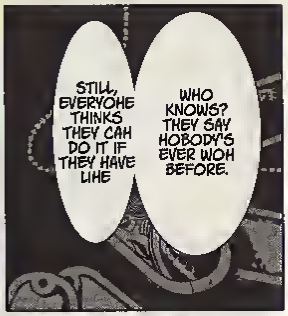

!!
……
SIGH…
WISH I COULD BUILD A FIRE IN HERE
HURRY UP AND DRY OFF. DON'T WANT YOU CATCHING A COLD.

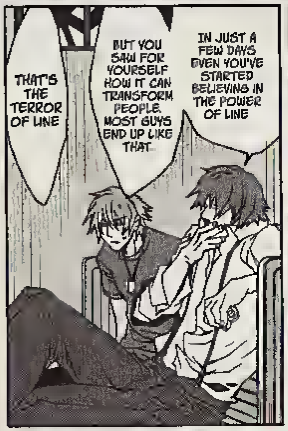
CREEAAA...AK
GO AHEAD AND TAKE A SEAT.
AHH. DAMN IT..
I'M SOAKED ..TO THE BONE.

AKIRA... IF YOU DON'T GET TREATED, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT
I'M FINE.
IS IT JUST YOUR HEAD AND YOUR HAND? WHAT ABOUT YOUR STOMACH? IS IT OKAY?
AND YOUR STO-MACH?
I FORGOT I EVEN INJURED IT
THEN IT'S PRO-BABLY FINE
IT'LL STING A BIT, BUT TRY TO BEAR WITH IT.
I'LL JUST BANDAGE YOUR HANDS WRAPPING YOUR HEAD WOULD BE TOO CONSPICUOUS
THE RAIN MUST'VE WASHED AWAY MOST OF THE BLOOD. SEEMS TO BE CLOTTING LIKE NORMAL, THOUGH!
NGH...
KEEP YOUR HAND BANDAGED UNTIL THE BLEEDING STOPS

??
STOP SPACING OUT!
GIMME THAT!
Whoa
Ngh...
HUH?
ALL RIGHT.
LEMME SEE.

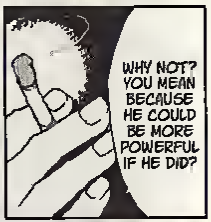

BUT IF YOU ASK ME, BEATING A SOBER GUY WHEN YOU'RE DOPED UP ON LINE ISN'T ANYTHING TO BRAG ABOUT.

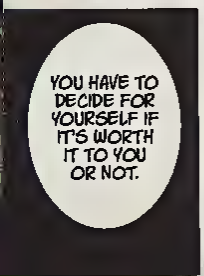

STILL, EVERYONE THINKS THEY CAN DO IT IF THEY HAVE LINE
WHO KNOWS? THEY SAY NOBODY'S EVER WON BEFORE.

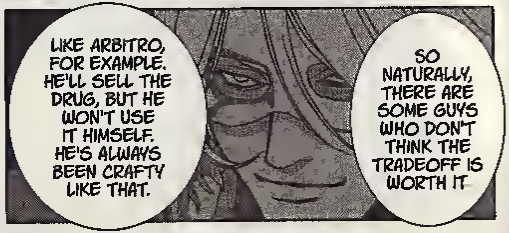

THAT'S THE TERROR OF LINE
BUT YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF HOW IT CAN TRANSFORM PEOPLE. MOST GUYS END UP LIKE THAT.
IN JUST A FEW DAYS EVEN YOU'VE STARTED BELIEVING IN THE POWER OF LINE

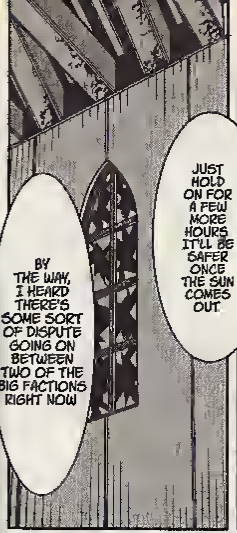
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY
WHY NOT?
IL RE DOESN'T USE LINE?

...!!


WHY NOT? YOU MEAN BECAUSE HE COULD BE MORE POWERFUL IF HE DID?

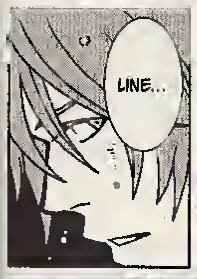

YOU HAVE TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF IF IT'S WORTH IT TO YOU OR NOT.

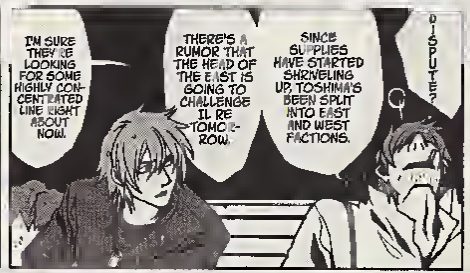

LIKE ARBITRO, FOR EXAMPLE. HE'LL SELL THE DRUG, BUT HE WON'T USE IT HIMSELF. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN CRAFTY LIKE THAT.
SO NATURALLY, THERE ARE SOME GUYS WHO DON'T THINK THE TRADEOFF IS WORTH IT.

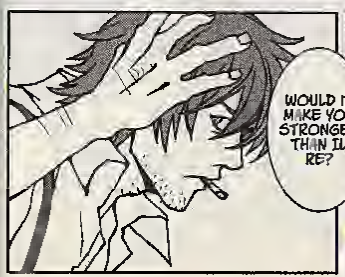

BY THE WAY, I HEARD THERE'S SOME SORT OF DISPUTE GOING ON BETWEEN TWO OF THE BIG FACTIONS RIGHT NOW

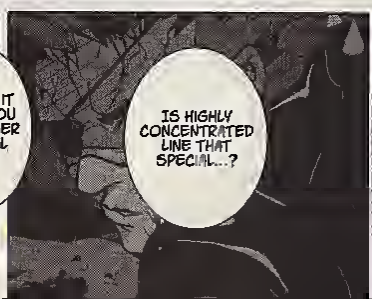
JUST HOLD ON FOR A FEW MORE HOURS. IT'LL BE SAFER ONCE THE SUN COMES OUT.
IT'LL BE MORNING SOON.

HANG YOUR JACKET UP OVER THERE. IT'S NOT DOING YOU ANY GOOD WHILE IT'S WET

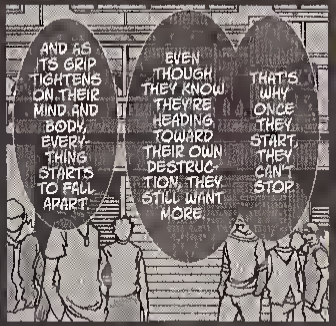

LINE...

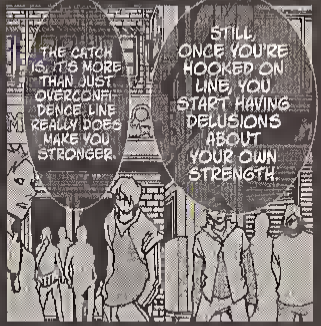

I'M SURE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOME HIGHLY CONCENTRATED LINE RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THE HEAD OF THE EAST IS GOING TO CHALLENGE IL RE TOMORROW.
SINCE SUPPLIES HAVE STARTED SHRINKING UP, TOSHIMA'S BEEN SPLIT INTO EAST AND WEST FACTIONS.
DISPUTE?


WOULD IT MAKE YOU STRONGER THAN IL RE?

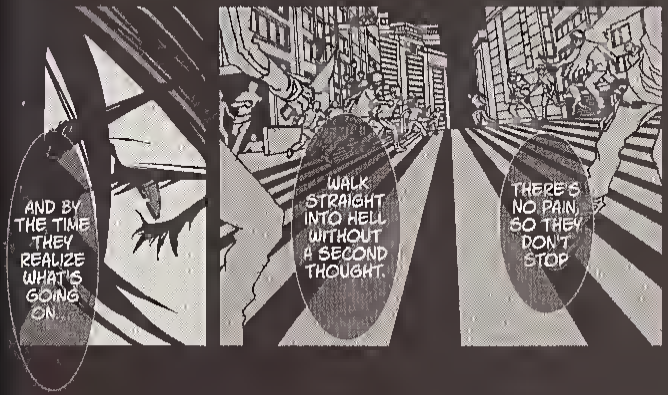

IS HIGHLY CONCENTRATED LINE THAT SPECIAL...?

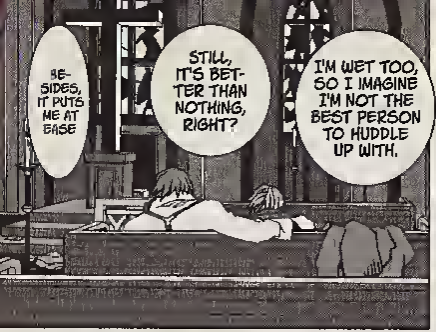
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO CREATED THIS SYSTEM OF MADNESS DON'T HAVE TO BE SWALLOWED BY IT.
OF COURSE, ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE PLENTY WHO BECOME SLAVES TO THE INSANITY. TAKE THE EXECUTIONERS FOR EXAMPLE.
I'M SURE YOU'VE SEEN FOR YOURSELF HOW THAT MADNESS HAS WARPED THIS CITY.
STILL, IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU WANT TO EMBRACE IT OR REJECT IT. IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE LINE HAS CORRUPTED THE PEOPLE HERE, BUT IN THE END, IT WAS THEIR CHOICE.

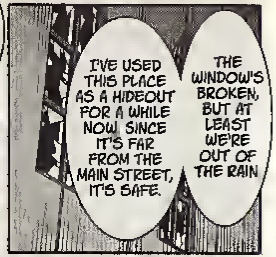

AND AS ITS GRIP TIGHTENS ON THEIR MIND AND BODY, EVERYTHING STARTS TO FALL APART.
EVEN THOUGH THEY KNOW THEY'RE HEADING TOWARD THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION, THEY STILL WANT MORE.
THAT'S WHY ONCE THEY START, THEY CAN'T STOP.

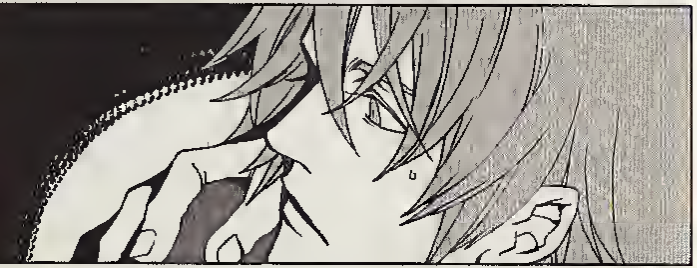

THE CATCH IS, IT'S MORE THAN JUST OVERCONFIDENCE. LINE REALLY DOES MAKE YOU STRONGER.
STILL, ONCE YOU'RE HOOKED ON LINE, YOU START HAVING DELUSIONS ABOUT YOUR OWN STRENGTH.

THE DESPAIR THAT'S BEEN LINGERING IN THEIR HEARTS STARTS TO FUEL THE ADDICTION EVEN MORE.

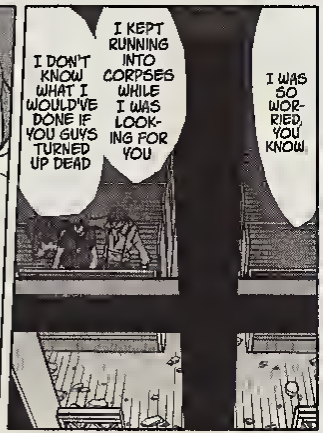

AND BY THE TIME THEY REALIZE WHAT'S GOING ON...
WALK STRAIGHT INTO HELL WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
THERE'S NO PAIN, SO THEY DON'T STOP


BESIDES, IT PUTS ME AT EASE
STILL, IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING, RIGHT?
I'M WET TOO, SO I IMAGINE I'M NOT THE BEST PERSON TO HUDDLE UP WITH.

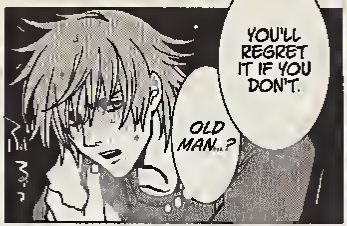

I'VE USED THIS PLACE AS A HIDEOUT FOR A WHILE NOW. SINCE IT'S FAR FROM THE MAIN STREET, IT'S SAFE.
THE WINDOW'S BROKEN, BUT AT LEAST WE'RE OUT OF THE RAIN



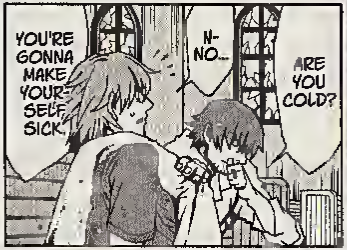
BUT SERIOUSLY I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
HA HA...


I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD'VE DONE IF YOU GUYS TURNED UP DEAD
I KEPT RUNNING INTO CORPSES WHILE I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU
I WAS SO WORRIED, YOU KNOW

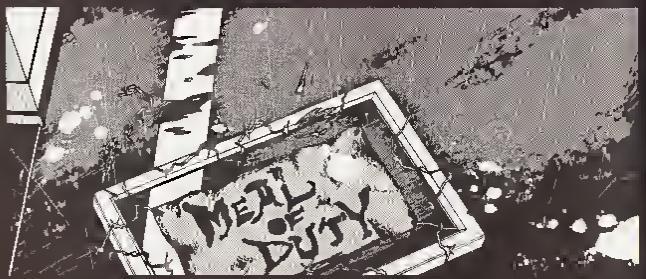
HIS HAND IS COLD


OLD MAN...?
YOU'LL REGRET IT IF YOU DON'T.

IT'S THE DEVIL'S DRUG.
STAY AWAY FROM IT, ALL RIGHT?


YOU'RE GONNA MAKE YOURSELF SICK.
N-NO...
ARE YOU COLD?

I SAID IT'S FINE!
JUST GET OVER HERE.
N-NO, IT'S FINE.
C'MERE



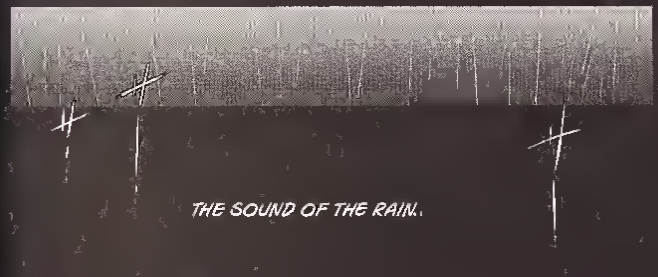
TIRED..?

I GUESS I SHOULD BE.

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED

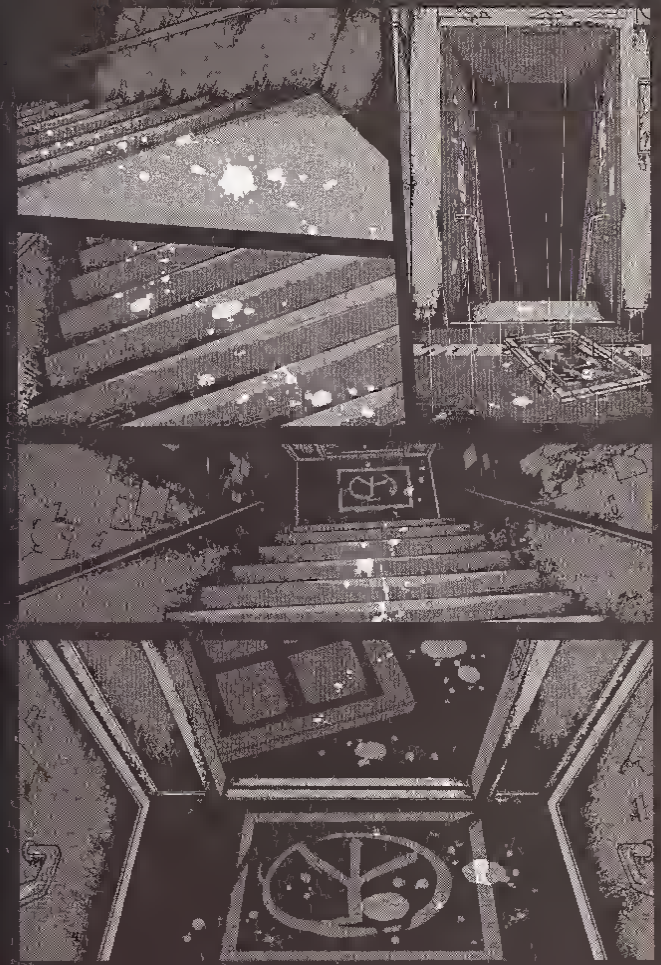
MY SHOULDER HURTS AND MY HEAD IS POUNDING.

MY WHOLE BODY FEELS HEAVY. I REALLY AM TIRED, AREN'T I?

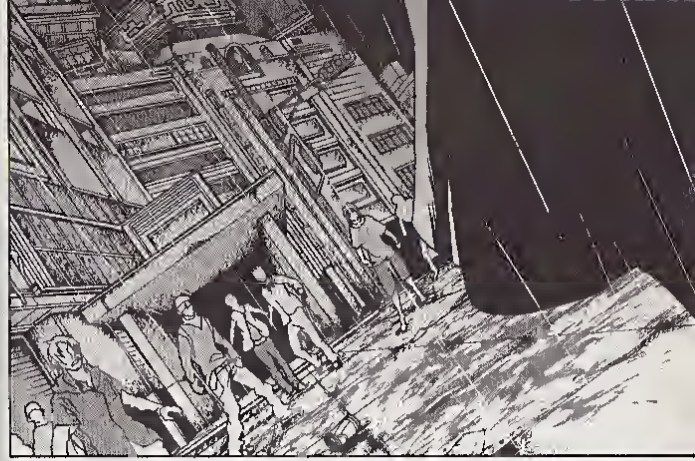


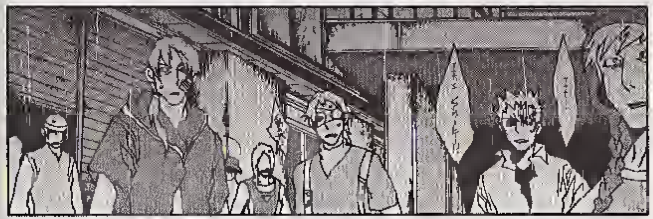
THE SOUND OF THE RAIN..

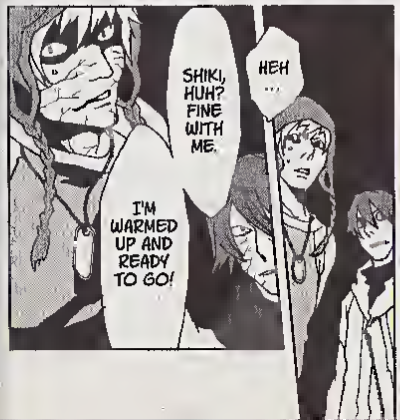
..IS SO RELAXING.



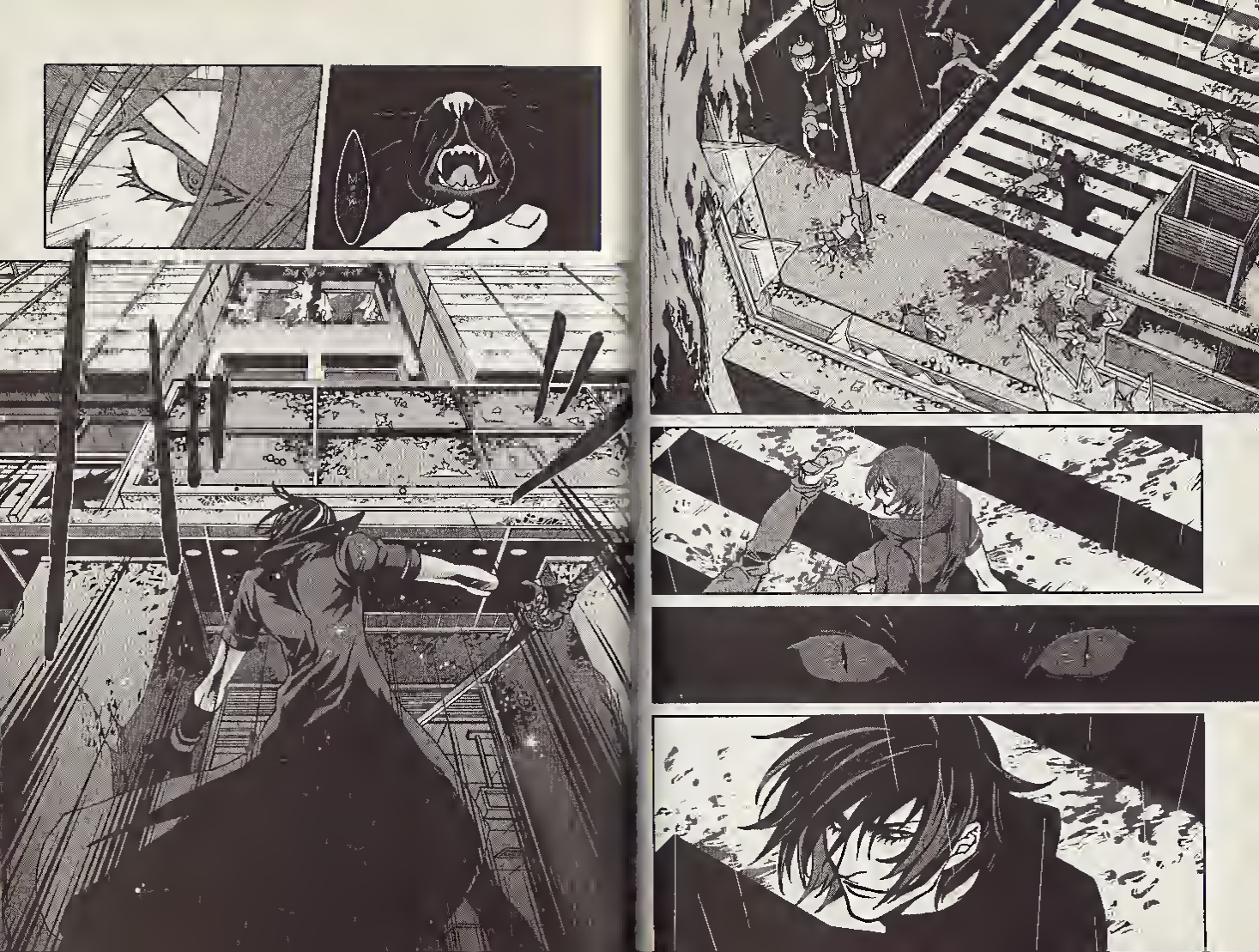
ME TOO HEE HEE
HEE HEE!
SHIK
HEH!
YAAHHHH!
HA!






SHIKI, HUH? FINE WITH ME.
I'M WARMED UP AND READY TO GO!
HEH ...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IS PLAY-TIME OVER ALREADY?

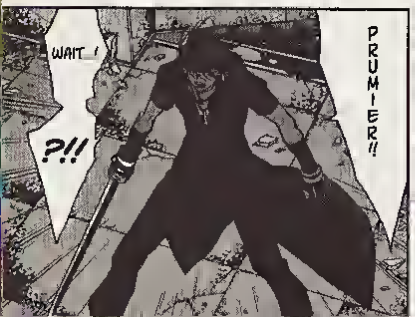


PRUMIER...!!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

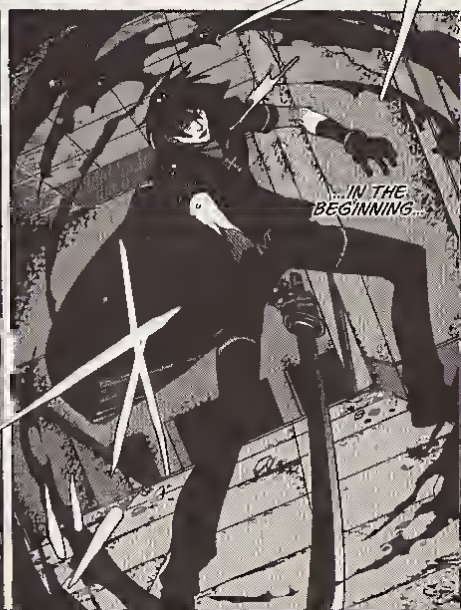
...THAT YOUR COLOR WAS BLACK...

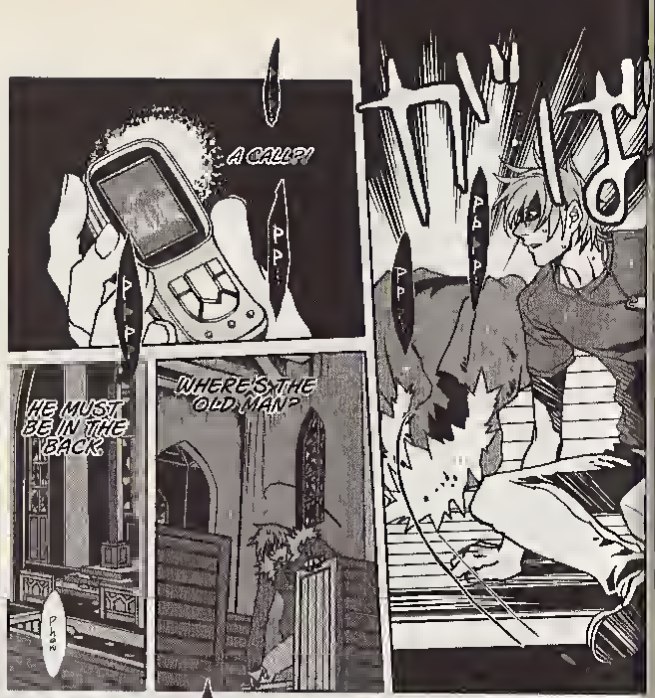
...INTO ANYTHING BUT THAT.
...THEN IT COULD NEVER CHANGE...

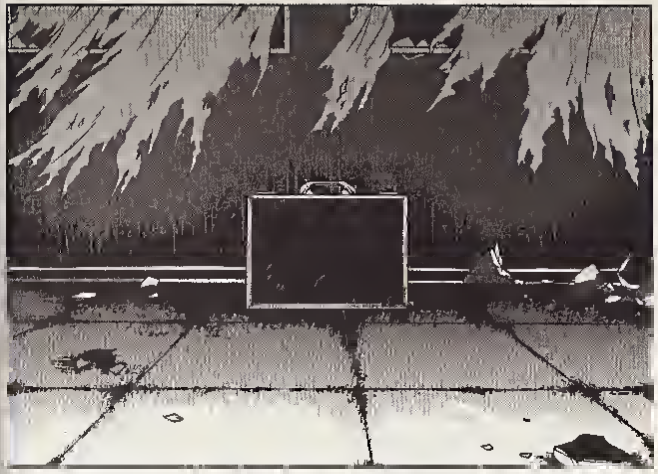
WHAT?
"COLOR?"


WAIT !
?!!
PRUMIER !!

IF IT WAS DECIDED


...IN THE BEGINNING...


A CALL?
PP...
PPP
HE MUST BE IN THE BACK.
WHERE'S THE OLD MAN?
PPP
PPP...
PPP...
PPP
PPPP
PPPP
ギィ...



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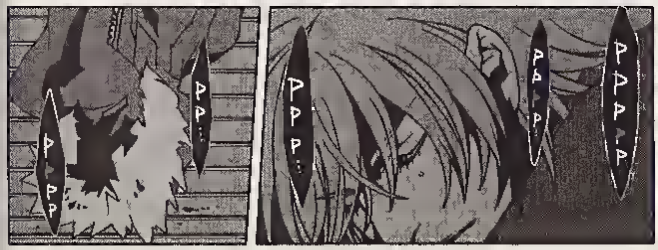
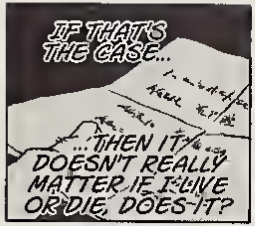
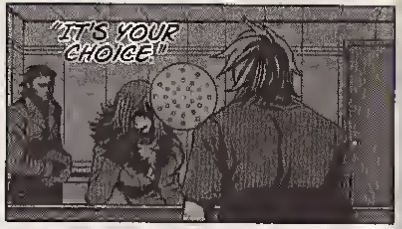

PPP...
PPP...
PPP
PPP...
PPPP

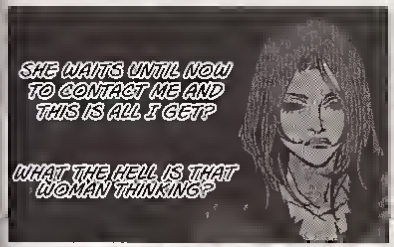

IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...THEN IT'S... DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IF I LIVE OR DIE, DOES IT?


"IT'S YOUR CHOICE."

<20XX> Registered at Toshima Bunny Orphanage

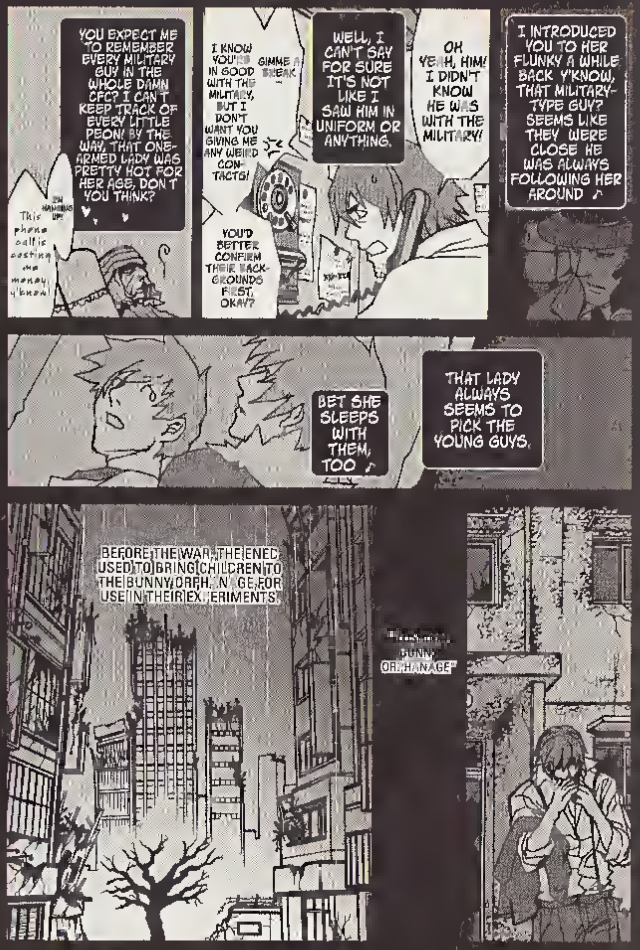
BEEP BEEP BEEP
THEY HUNG UP?

CLICK
HELLO...?


SHE WAITS UNTIL NOW TO CONTACT ME AND THIS IS ALL I GET?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT WOMAN THINKING?

BUT SHE DID SAY
"I'M NOT TRYING TO COERCE YOU."

ONLY WORKS ONE WAY, HUH?
HEH

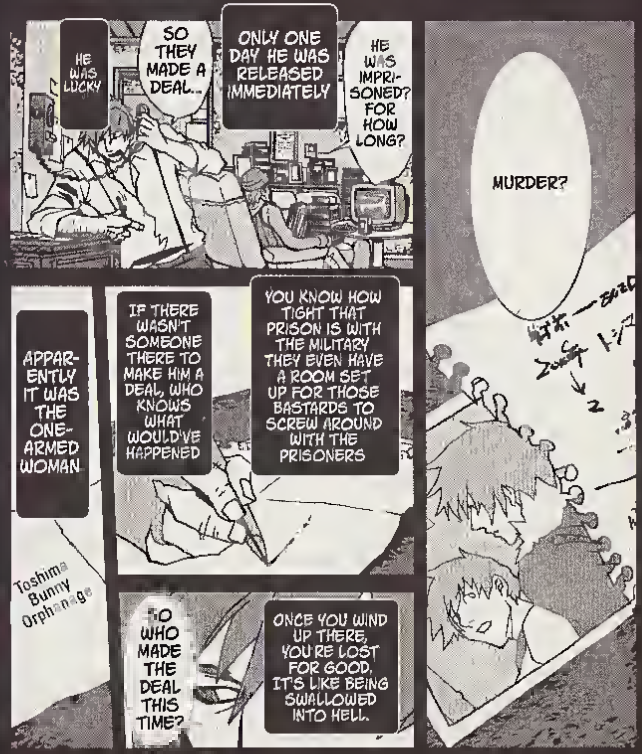

YOU EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER EVERY MILITARY GUY IN THE WHOLE DAMN ORG? I CAN'T KEEP TRACK OF EVERY LITTLE PEON! BY THE WAY, THAT ONE-ARMED LADY WAS PRETTY HOT FOR HER AGE, DON'T YOU THINK?
This phone call is costing me money, y'know
I KNOW YOU'RE IN GOOD WITH THE MILITARY, BUT I DON'T WANT YOU GIVING ME ANY WEIRD CONTACTS!
GIMME A BREAK
YOU'D BETTER CONFIRM THEIR BACKGROUNDS FIRST, OKAY?
WELL, I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE IT'S NOT LIKE I SAW HIM IN UNIFORM OR ANYTHING.
OH YEAH, HIM! I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS WITH THE MILITARY!
I INTRODUCED YOU TO HER FLUNKY A WHILE BACK Y'KNOW, THAT MILITARY-TYPE GUY? SEEMS LIKE THEY WERE CLOSE HE WAS ALWAYS FOLLOWING HER AROUND
BET SHE SLEEPS WITH THEM, TOO
THAT LADY ALWAYS SEEMS TO PICK THE YOUNG GUYS.
BEFORE THE WAR, THE ENEMY USED TO BRING CHILDREN TO THE BUNNY ORPHANAGE FOR USE IN THEIR EXPERIMENTS.
"TOSHIMA BUNNY ORPHANAGE"

<20X0> ENROLLED AT ORPHANAGE

<20X2> ADOPTED AS GREEN CLASS

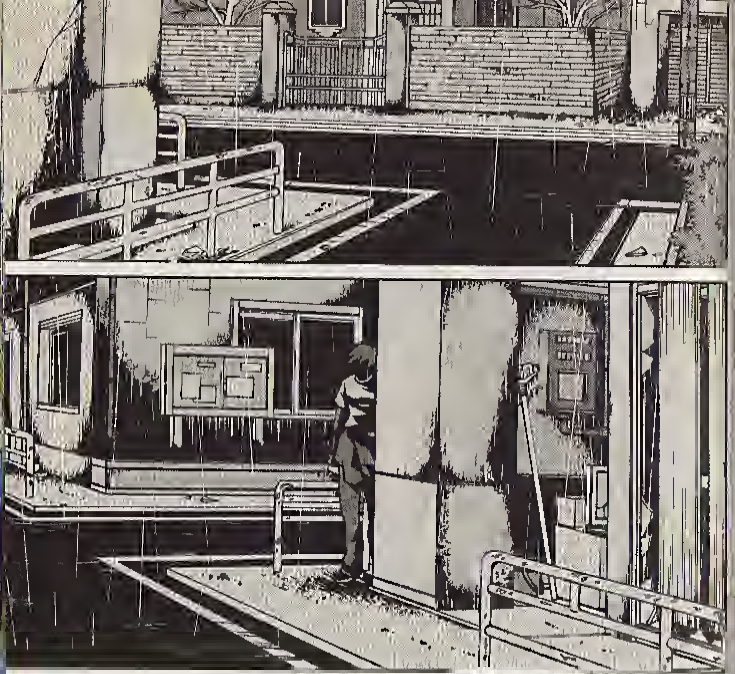
<20X5> DROPPED OUT OF TRAINING SCHOOL. SEPARATED FROM FOSTER PARENTS.

<20X7> WON THE BL@STER CHAMPIONSHIP.


HE WAS LUCKY
SO THEY MADE A DEAL...
ONLY ONE DAY HE WAS RELEASED IMMEDIATELY
HE WAS IMPRISONED? FOR HOW LONG?
APPARENTLY IT WAS THE ONE-ARMED WOMAN
IF THERE WASN'T SOMEONE THERE TO MAKE HIM A DEAL, WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED
YOU KNOW HOW TIGHT THAT PRISON IS WITH THE MILITARY THEY EVEN HAVE A ROOM SET UP FOR THOSE BASTARDS TO SCREW AROUND WITH THE PRISONERS
Toshima Bunny Orphanage
SO WHO MADE THE DEAL THIS TIME?
ONCE YOU WIND UP THERE, YOU'RE LOST FOR GOOD. IT'S LIKE BEING SWALLOWED INTO HELL.
MURDER?

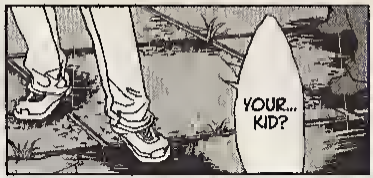
WHAT?
??
SMILE SMILE
ニヤ
YOU MIGHT ACT GROWN-UP, BUT DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE STILL JUST A KID
!?
I SEE, I SEE.
YEAH.. I'LL EAT IT.
GO AHEAD, I'M NOT STOPPING YOU.
DON'T SAY THAT.
AKIRA
C'MON, LET'S GO BACK INSIDE BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD.
I'M NOT MAD.
DON'T GET MAD AT SOMETHING LIKE THAT YOU'RE TOO SERIOUS!
Hey -
I WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND. Y'KNOW?
KIDS LIKE OMELETTE RICE, THAT'S ALL MY KID LIKED IT TOO.

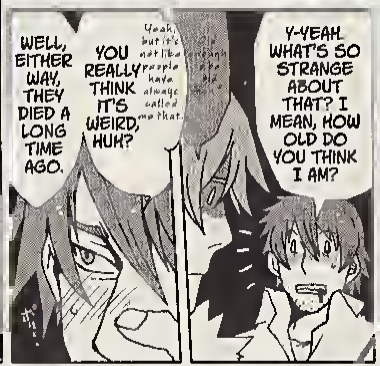
SORRY THAT'S ALL I COULD FIND, BY THE WAY
NOT MY FAULT YOU WERE DAY-DREAMING
AT LEAST SAY SOMETHING FIRST...
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
GOOD CATCH! IT MUST BE NICE TO BE YOUNG.
Solid
DO YOU LIKE OMELETTE RICE FLAVOR?

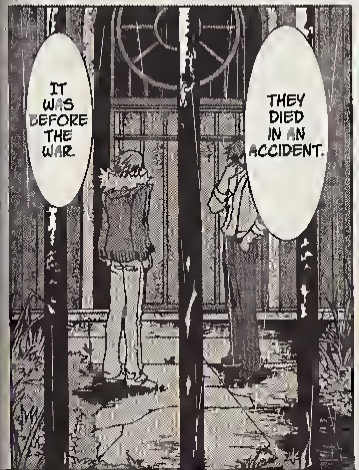


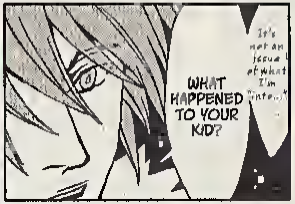
MAN, I REALLY AM GONNA CATCH A COLD
A BUNCH OF WATER SLID OFF THE ROOF
And I was finally dying of boredom.
WHAT THE HELL—?
DAMN THAT'S COLD!
Whoa!

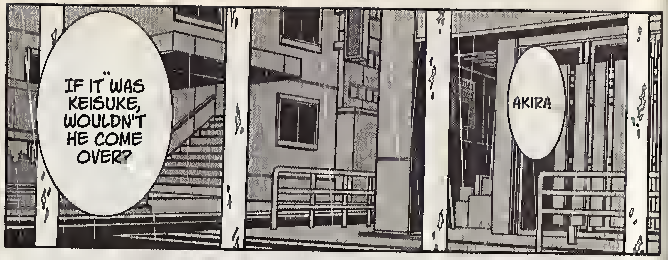
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INTO ANYMORE.
RIN'S ALWAYS MAKING FUN OF ME BECAUSE OF THAT

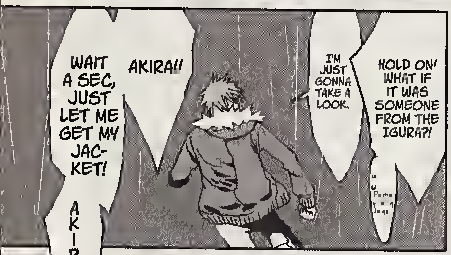

YOUR.. KID?

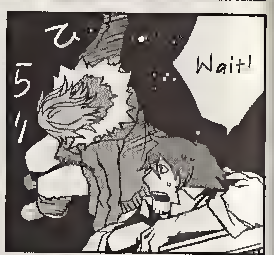

WELL, EITHER WAY, THEY DIED A LONG TIME AGO.
YOU REALLY THINK IT'S WEIRD, HUH?
Yeah, but it's not like people have always called me that.
Y-YEAH WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT THAT? I MEAN, HOW OLD DO YOU THINK I AM?

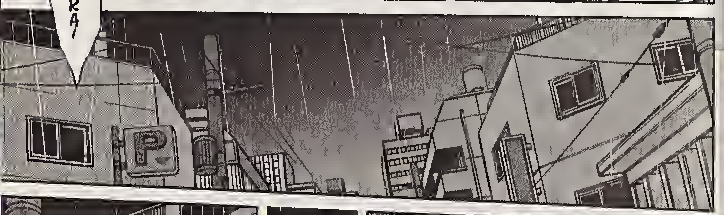

IT WAS BEFORE THE WAR.
THEY DIED IN AN ACCIDENT.

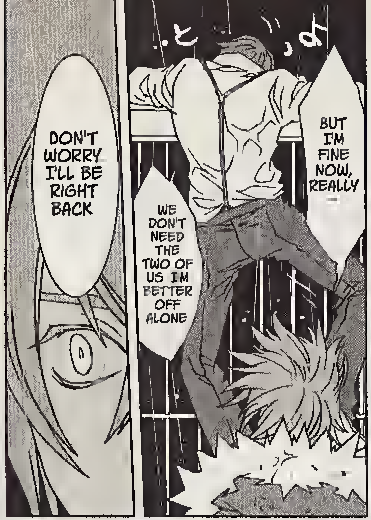

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR KID?
It's not an issue of what I'm into...

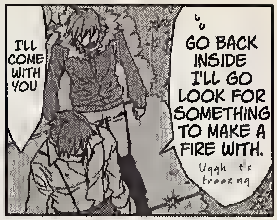

IF IT WAS KEISUKE, WOULDN'T HE COME OVER?
AKIRA

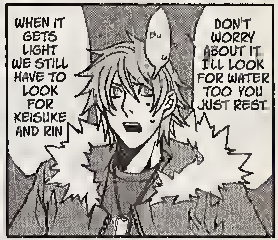

WAIT A SEC, JUST LET ME GET MY JACKET!
AKIRA!!
I'M JUST GONNA TAKE A LOOK.
HOLD ON WHAT IF IT WAS SOMEONE FROM THE IGURA?
AKIRA?

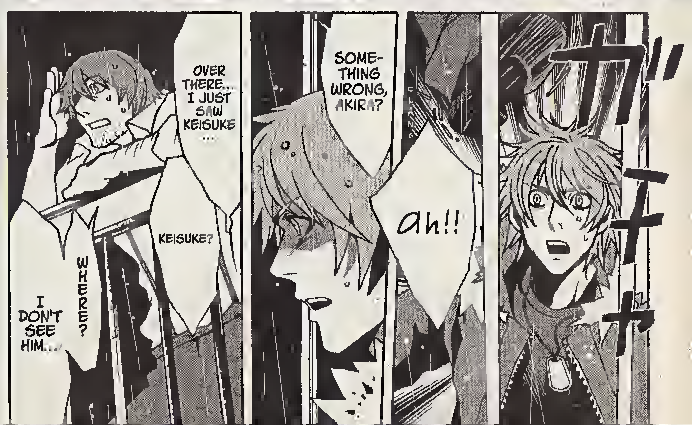

Wait!



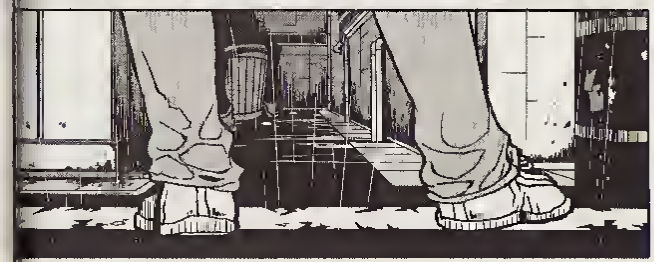

DON'T WORRY I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
WE DON'T NEED THE TWO OF US IM BETTER OFF ALONE
BUT I'M FINE NOW, REALLY


I'LL COME WITH YOU
GO BACK INSIDE I'LL GO LOOK FOR SOMETHING TO MAKE A FIRE WITH.
Ugh it's freezing

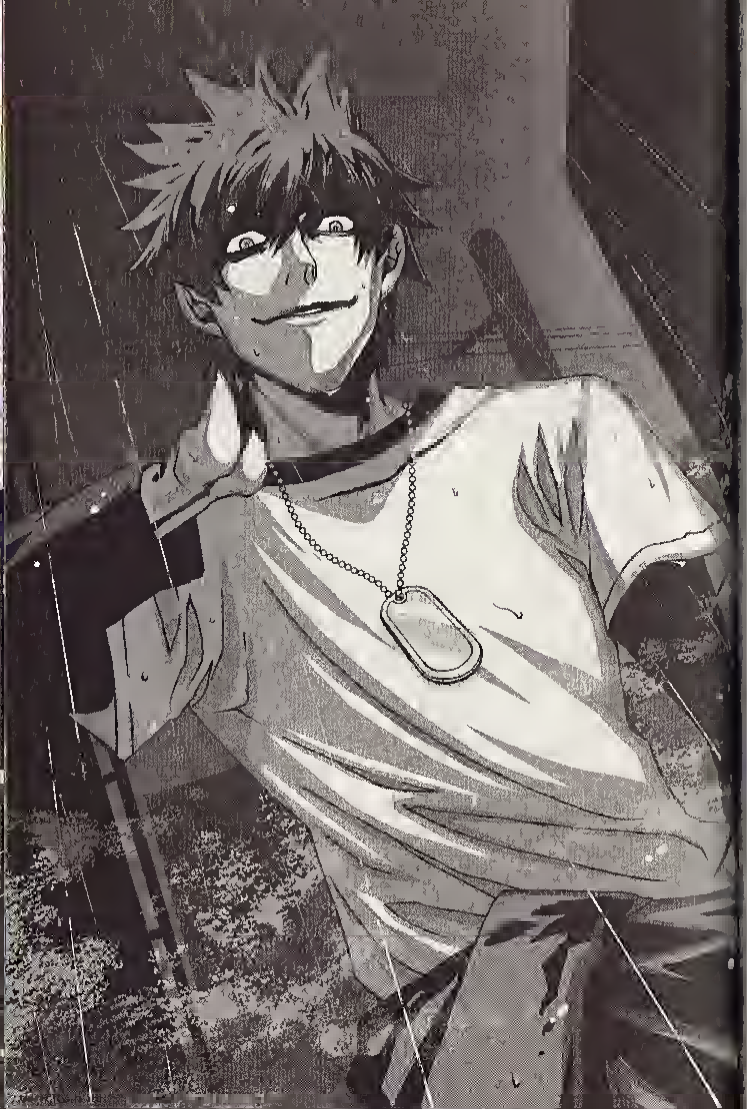

WHEN IT GETS LIGHT WE STILL HAVE TO LOOK FOR KEISUKE AND RIN
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL LOOK FOR WATER TOO YOU JUST REST.

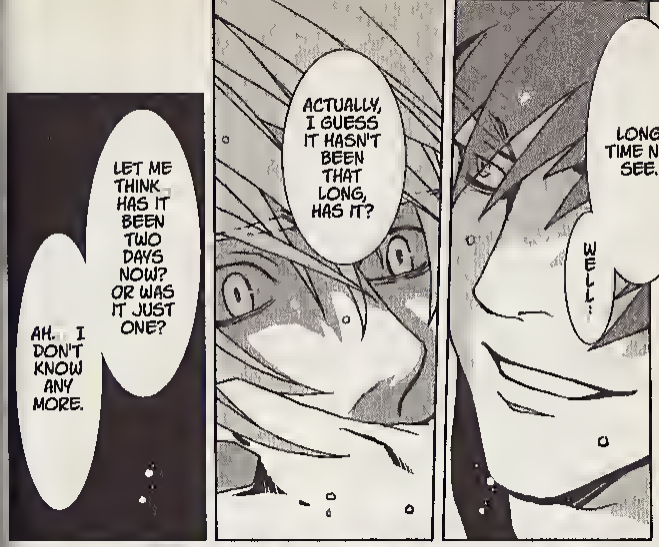

OVER THERE... I JUST SAW KEISUKE ...
KEISUKE?
WHERE?
I DON'T SEE HIM...
SOMETHING WRONG, AKIRA?
ah!!
ガチャ

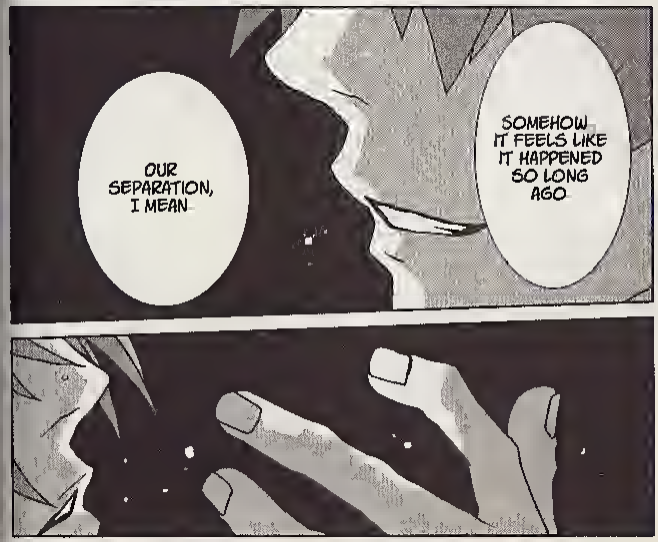
ULP

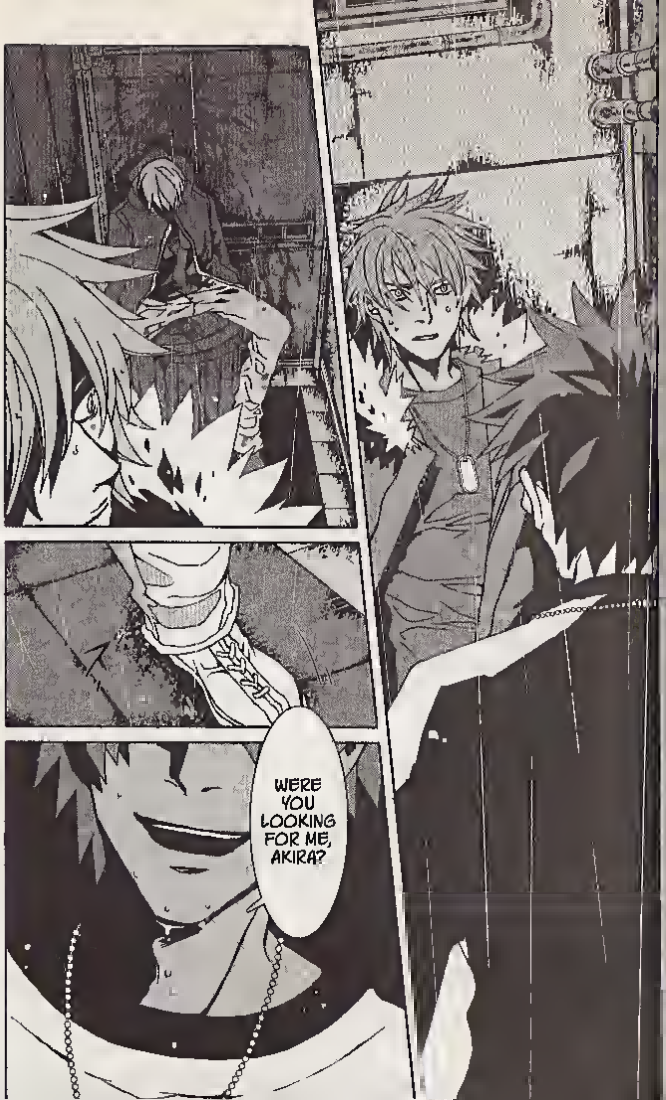


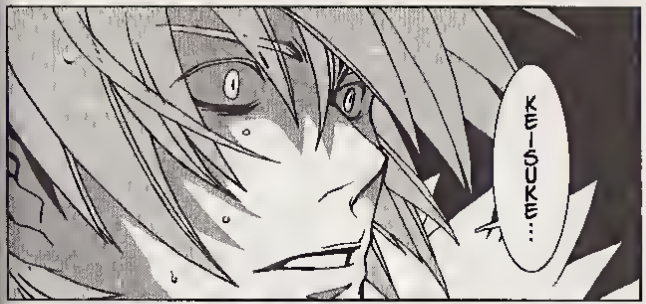
!!
YO... AKIRA.
KEI... SUKE...?
DogTag

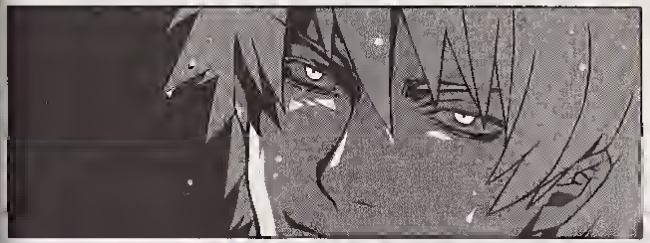



LONG TIME NO SEE.
WELL...
ACTUALLY, I GUESS IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG, HAS IT?
LET ME THINK. HAS IT BEEN TWO DAYS NOW? OR WAS IT JUST ONE?
AH... I DON'T KNOW ANY MORE.


SOMEHOW IT FEELS LIKE IT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO
OUR SEPARATION, I MEAN


WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME, AKIRA?

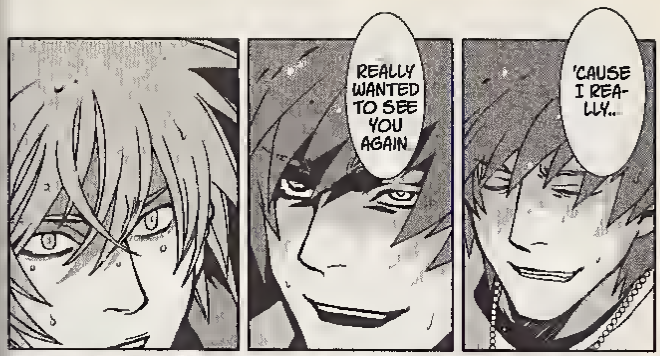

KEISUKE...

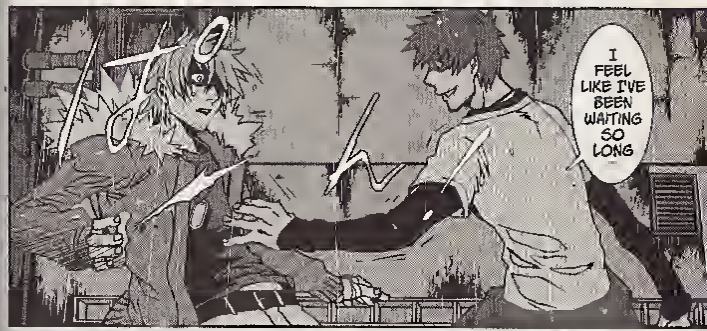


IT'S NOT LIKE YOU, AKIRA.

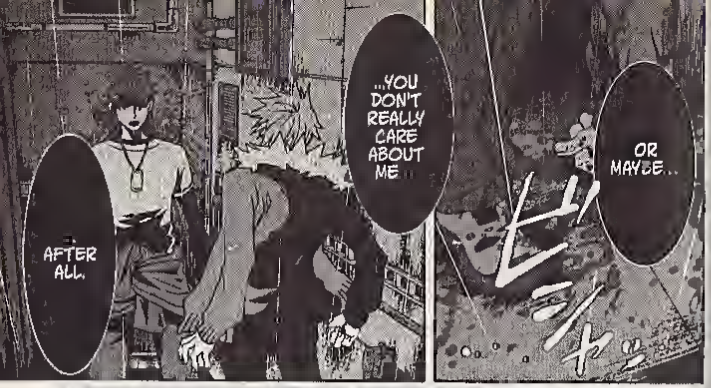
YOU LOOK LIKE A DEER CAUGHT IN HEAD LIGHTS
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?

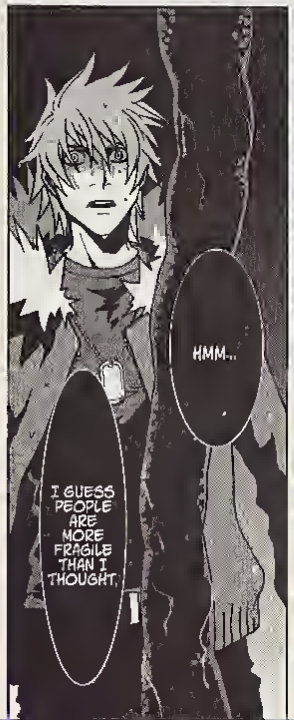
KE!!
WHAT THE HELL...
.....?
.....
WHAT THE HELL?!
DON'T TRY TO RUN AWAY!


'CAUSE I REALLY..
REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN

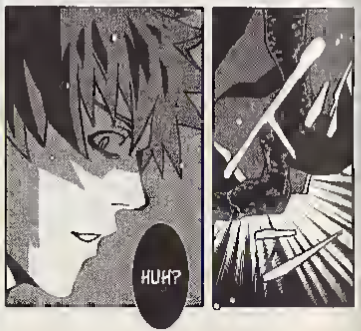

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG

SO YOU'RE OKAY...


AFTER ALL...
...YOU DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ME
OR MAYBE...


I GUESS PEOPLE ARE MORE FRAGILE THAN I THOUGHT.
HMM...

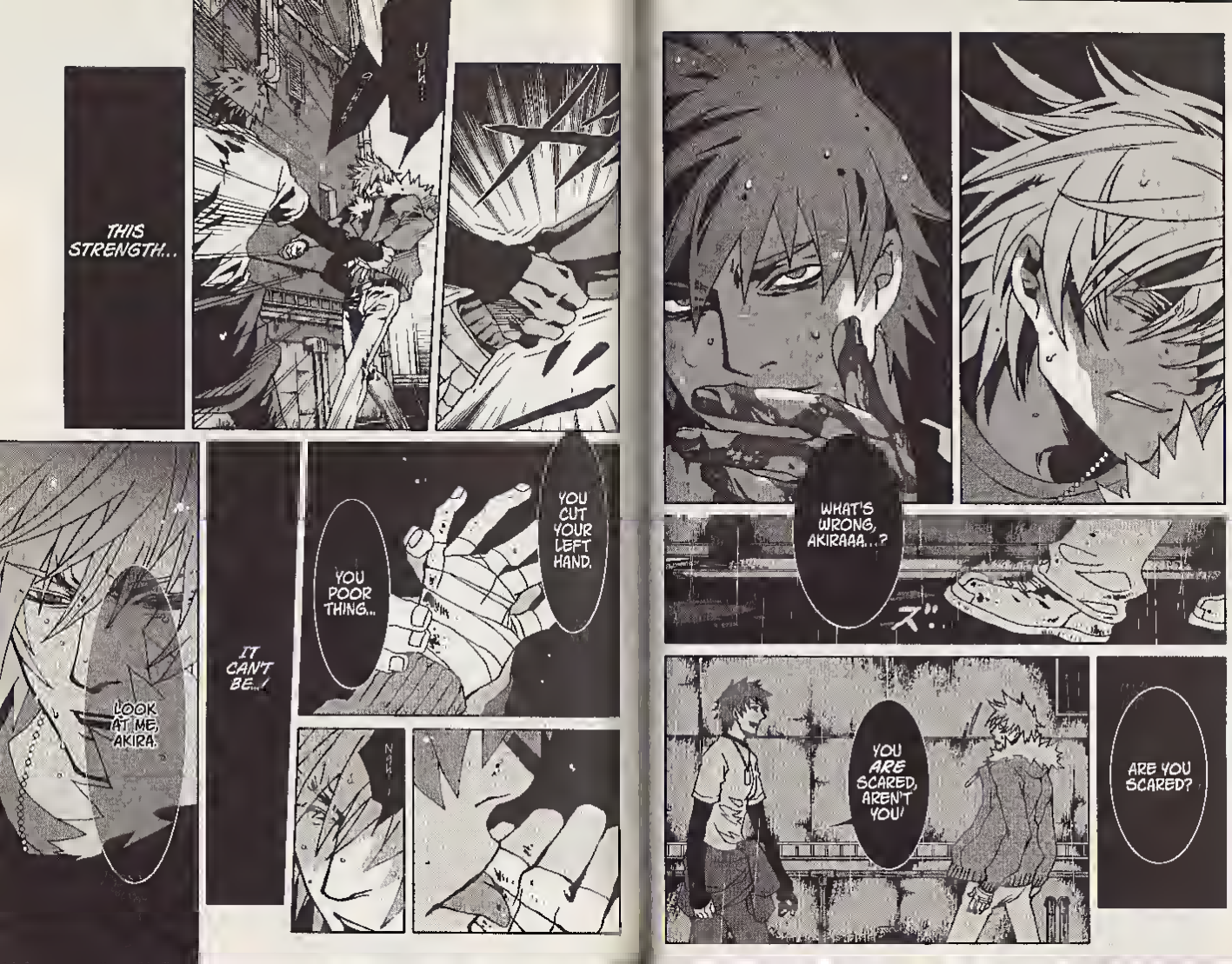
THIS IS OUR HEART-WARMING REUNION, RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET, AKIRA? SAY SOMETHING.

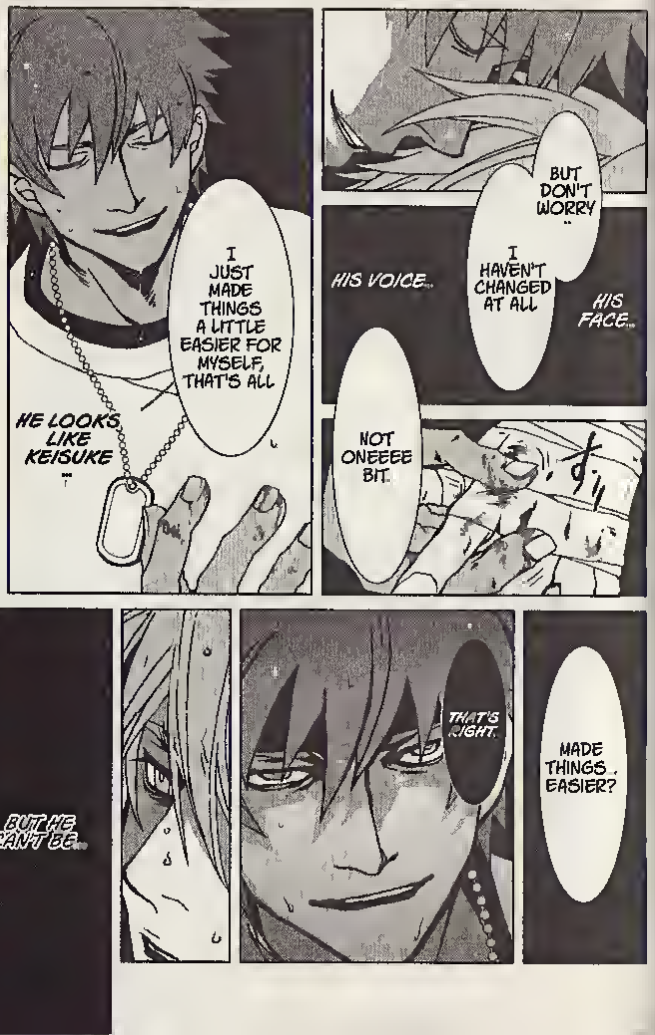

HUH?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME...

AKIRAAA

ゴゴゴ
CRACK CRACK

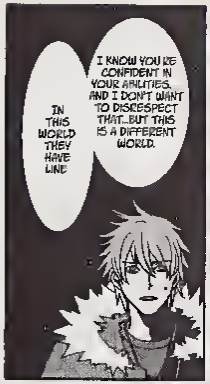

THIS STRENGTH...
UH!!
YOU CUT YOUR LEFT HAND.
YOU POOR THING..
IT CAN'T BE..!
LOOK AT ME, AKIRA.
WHAT'S WRONG, AKIRAAA...?
YOU ARE SCARED, AREN'T YOU!
ARE YOU SCARED?


I JUST MADE THINGS A LITTLE EASIER FOR MYSELF, THAT'S ALL
HE LOOKS LIKE KEISUKE ...
BUT DON'T WORRY ... I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL
HIS VOICE...
HIS FACE...
NOT ONEEEE BIT.
BUT HE CAN'T BE...
THAT'S RIGHT.
MADE THINGS EASIER?

WHO...ARE YOU?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN YOU WITH THAT LOOK, AKIRA.
Y'KNOW...
THAT "SCARED LOOK."

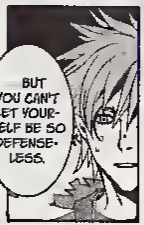
THE BAR BACK IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL THAT MY "GRAND ENTRANCE."
KE!
AKIRA
THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM

AKIRAAAA!!!
KIRA!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
ANS WER ME!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN
YOU "MADE THINGS EASIER?"
ERICH

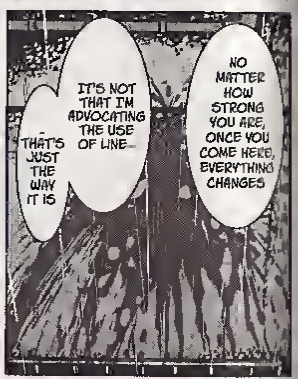

I KNOW YOU'RE CONFIDENT IN YOUR ABILITIES, AND I DON'T WANT TO DISRESPECT THAT...BUT THIS IS A DIFFERENT WORLD.
IN THIS WORLD THEY HAVE LIVE

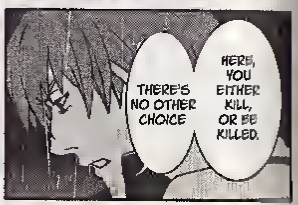
LISTEN

IT'S ALL RIGHT
IT'S GOOD, EVEN


BUT YOU CAN'T LET YOURSELF BE SO DEFENSELESS.

I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHICH ROUTE YOU'LL TAKE...


NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE, ONCE YOU COME HERE, EVERYTHING CHANGES
IT'S NOT THAT I'M ADVOCATING THE USE OF LINE...
THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS


HERE, YOU EITHER KILL, OR BE KILLED.
THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE

"KILL"
"OR BE KILLED"

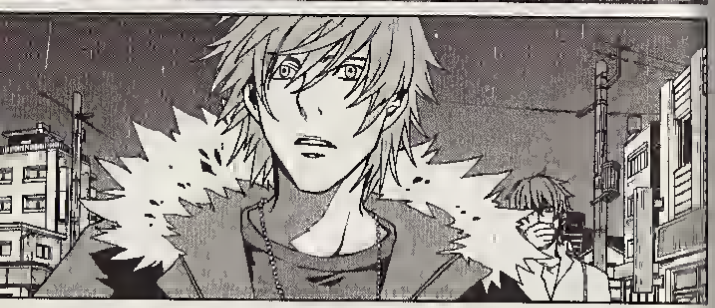
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT HAPPENED?
DON'T RUN OFF LIKE THAT! YOU SCARED ME!

AKIRA! YOU ALL RIGHT?!

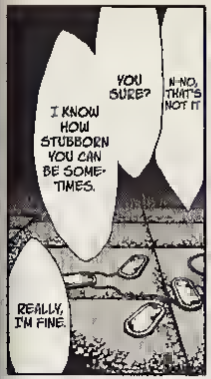
WAIT ...!
!!

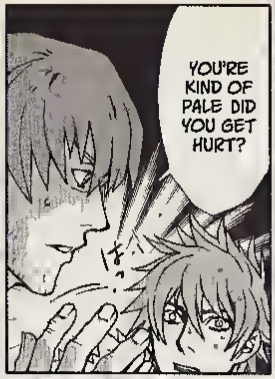
DID YOU DO THIS?
AKIRA ...

Nha ...!



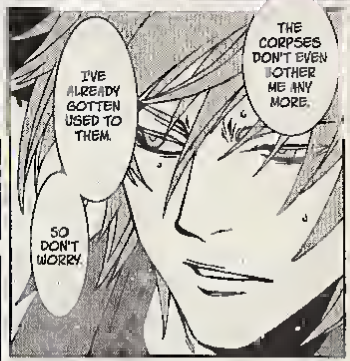
EVEN IN THIS UGLY CITY, THERE ARE AT LEAST A FEW BEAUTIFUL THINGS ...
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
...IF YOU CAN SURVIVE TO SEE THEM..


N-NO, THAT'S NOT IT
YOU SURE?
I KNOW HOW STUBBORN YOU CAN BE SOME-TIMES.
REALLY, I'M FINE.


YOU'RE KIND OF PALE DID YOU GET HURT?

HEY... WHAT'S WRONG?

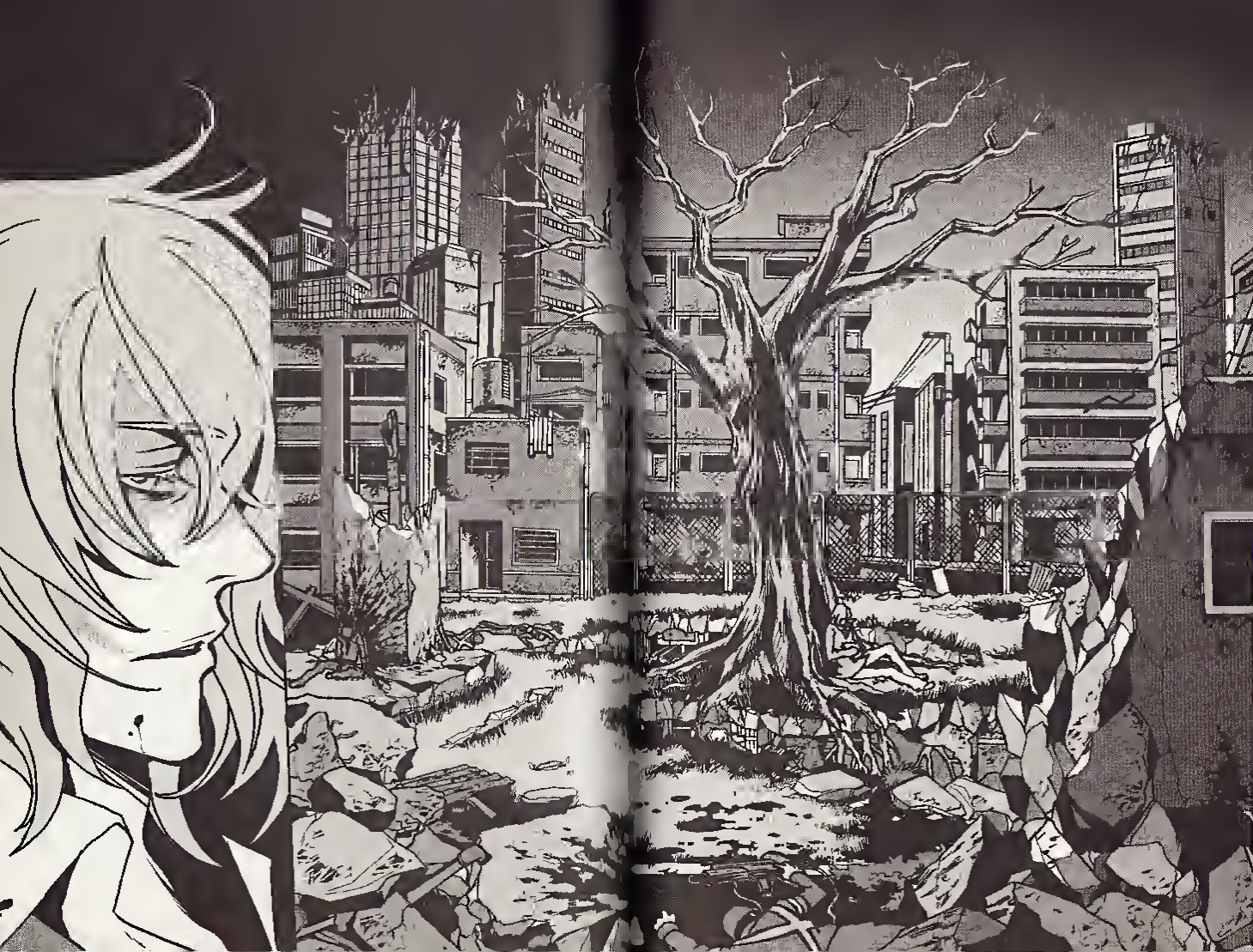
LET'S GO.
...BUT IF YOU'RE FEELING UP TO IT, WE SHOULD HEAD BACK TO THAT BUILDING YOU MEN-TIONED.
ANYWAY, WE COULD GO BACK TO THE CHURCH...

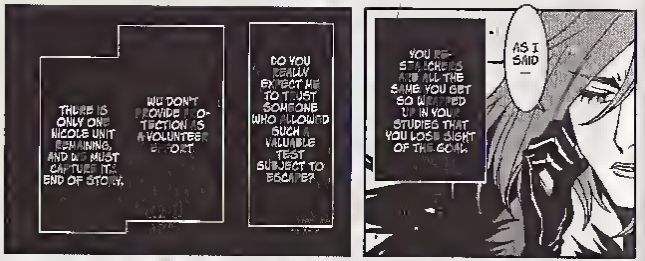

THE CORPSES DON'T EVEN BOTHER ME ANY MORE.
I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN USED TO THEM.
SO DON'T WORRY.

THE SUN'S STARTING TO COME UP.

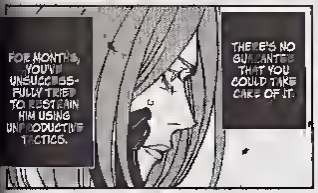
ANYTHING BEATS STANDING STILL.

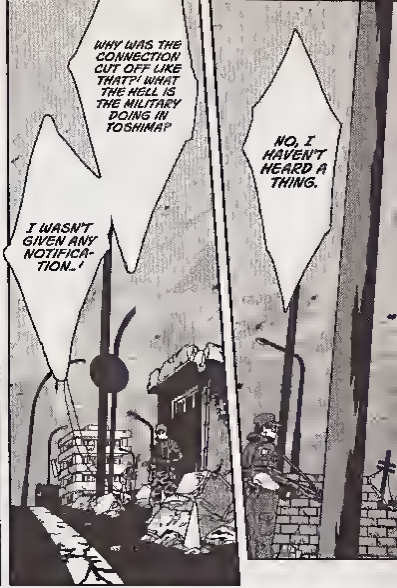
BUT THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON TO GET OUT OF TOSHIMA.
I GUES-SE AS MUCH.

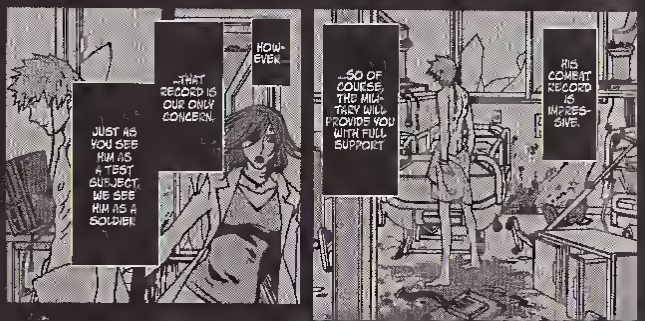


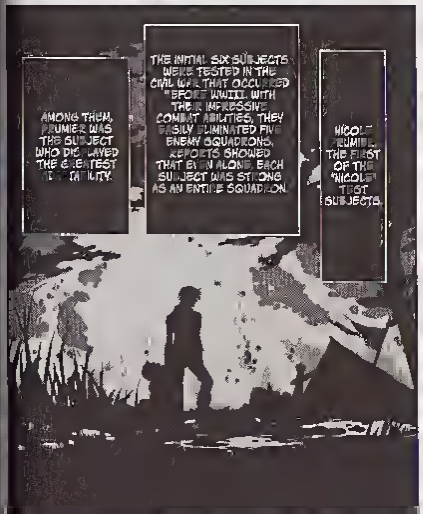

THERE IS ONLY ONE NICOLE UNIT REMAINING, AND WE MUST CAPTURE IT. END OF STORY.
WE DON'T PROVIDE PROTECTION AS A VOLUNTEER EFFORT.
DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO TRUST SOMEONE WHO ALLOWED SUCH A VALUABLE TEST SUBJECT TO ESCAPE?
YOU RESEARCHERS ARE ALL THE SAME. YOU GET SO WRAPPED UP IN YOUR STUDIES THAT YOU LOSE SIGHT OF THE GOAL.
AS I SAID —

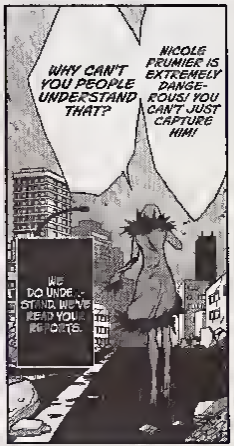
ARE YOU KIDDING? DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE?!
YOUR ORDER WAS TO CAPTURE THE TEST SUBJECT DIRECTLY.
I'VE TOLD YOU OVER AND OVER: THAT YOU'RE OUT OF TIME.

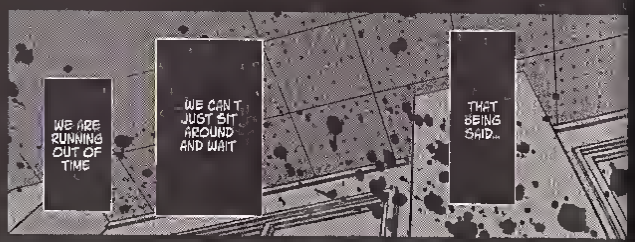

FOR MONTHS, YOU'VE UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO TEST IN HIM USING UNPRODUCTIVE TACTICS.
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF IT.

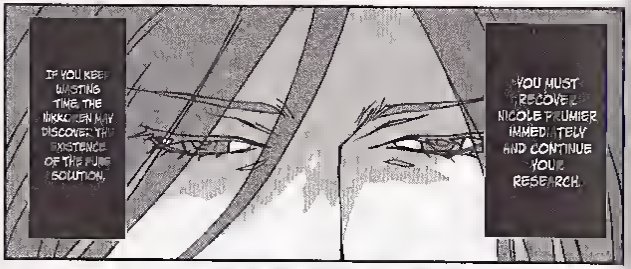

WHY WAS THE CONNECTION CUT OFF LIKE THAT?! WHAT THE HELL IS THE MILITARY DOING IN TOSHIMA?
I WASN'T GIVEN ANY NOTIFICATION...!
NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD A THING.

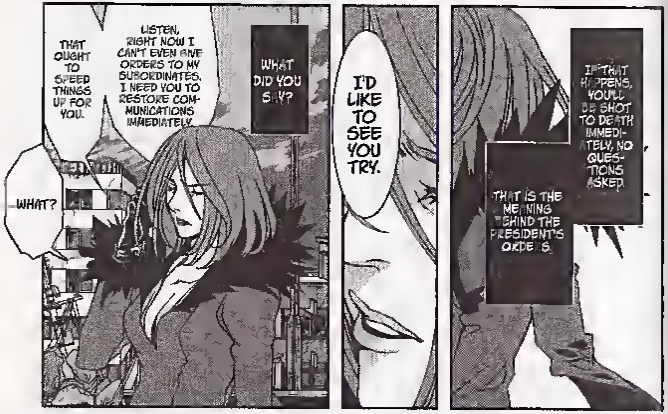

JUST AS YOU SEE HIM AS A TEST SUBJECT, WE SEE HIM AS A SOLDIER.
...THAT RECORD IS OUR ONLY CONCERN.
HOWEVER...
...SO OF COURSE, THE MILITARY WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH FULL SUPPORT.
HIS COMBAT RECORD IS IMPRESSIVE.

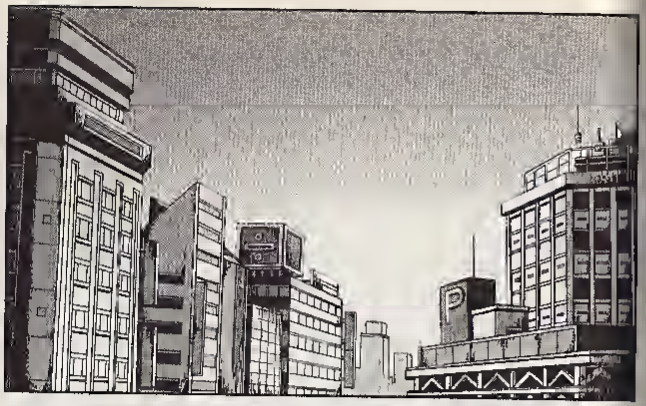

AMONG THEM, PRUMIER WAS THE SUBJECT WHO DISPLAYED THE GREATEST POTENTIALITY.
THE INITIAL SIX SUBJECTS WERE TESTED IN THE CIVIL WAR THAT OCCURRED BEFORE WWII. WITH THEIR IMPRESSIVE COMBAT ABILITIES, THEY EASILY ELIMINATED FIVE ENEMY SQUADRONS. REPORTS SHOWED THAT EVEN ALONE, EACH SUBJECT WAS STRONG AS AN ENTIRE SQUADRON.
NICOLE PRUMIER, THE FIRST OF THE "NICOLE" TEST SUBJECTS.


WHY CAN'T YOU PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT?
NICOLE PRUMIER IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS! YOU CAN'T JUST CAPTURE HIM!
WE DO UNDERSTAND. WE'VE READ YOUR REPORTS.

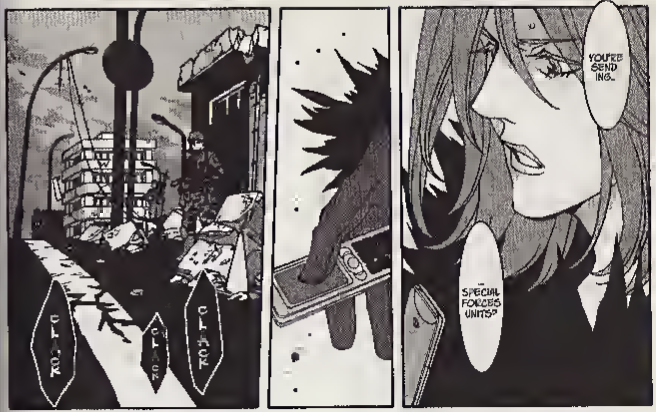

WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME
WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND WAIT
THAT BEING SAID...

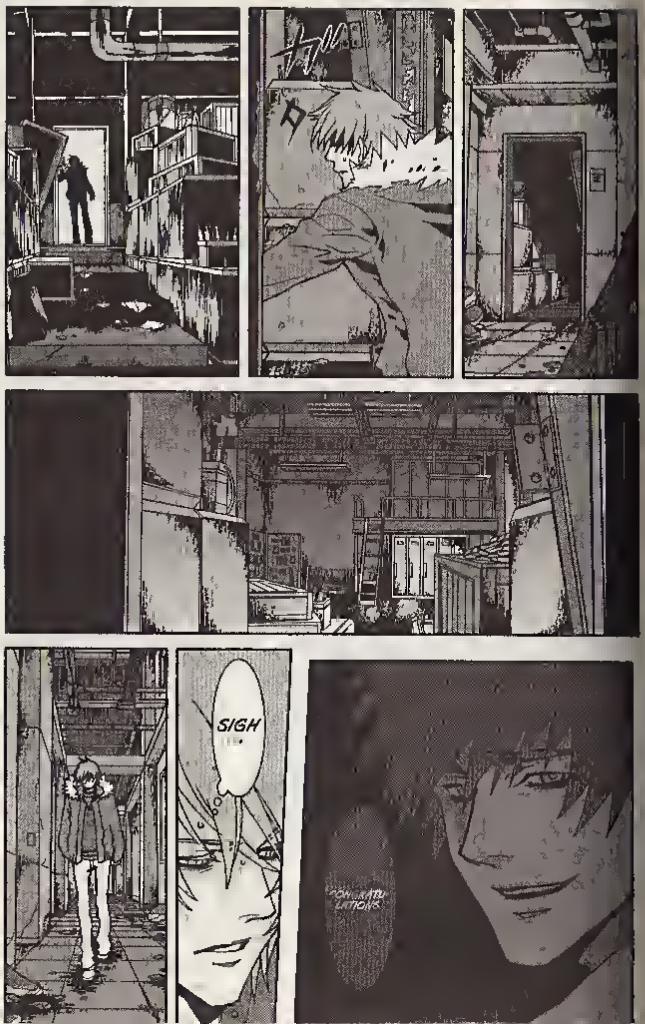

IF YOU KEEP WASTING TIME, THE NIKKEIDEN MAY DISCOVER THE EXISTENCE OF THE PURE SOLUTION.
YOU MUST RECOVER NICOLE PRUMIER IMMEDIATELY AND CONTINUE YOUR RESEARCH.


THAT OUGHT TO SPEED THINGS UP FOR YOU.
LISTEN, RIGHT NOW I CAN'T EVEN GIVE ORDERS TO MY SUBORDINATES. I NEED YOU TO RESTORE COMMUNICATIONS IMMEDIATELY.
WHAT DID YOU S...Y?
WHAT?
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY.
IF THAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL BE SHOT TO DEATH IMMEDIATELY, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
THAT IS THE MEANING BEHIND THE PRESIDENT'S ORDERS.



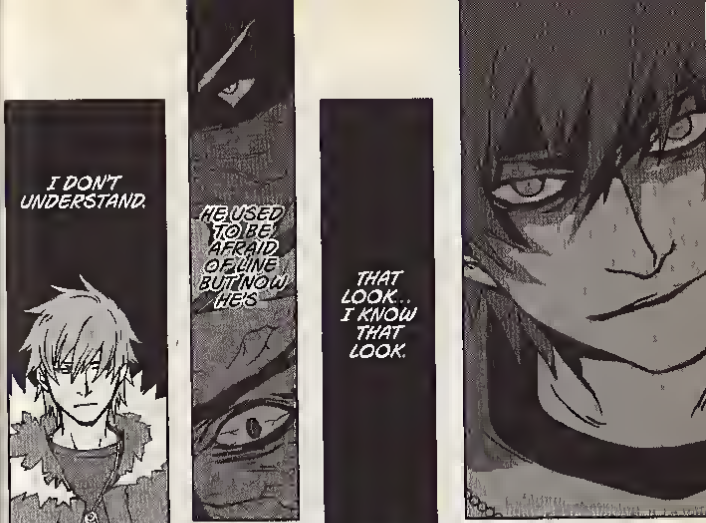
SO THIS IS WHERE RIN HIDES OUT, HUH?
IS THAT THE BUILD-ING?
SURE IS QUIET
WHAT BE BECAUSE OF THAT INSPUTE
COAST IS CLEAR.
WOW LOOKS PRETTY RUN DOWN

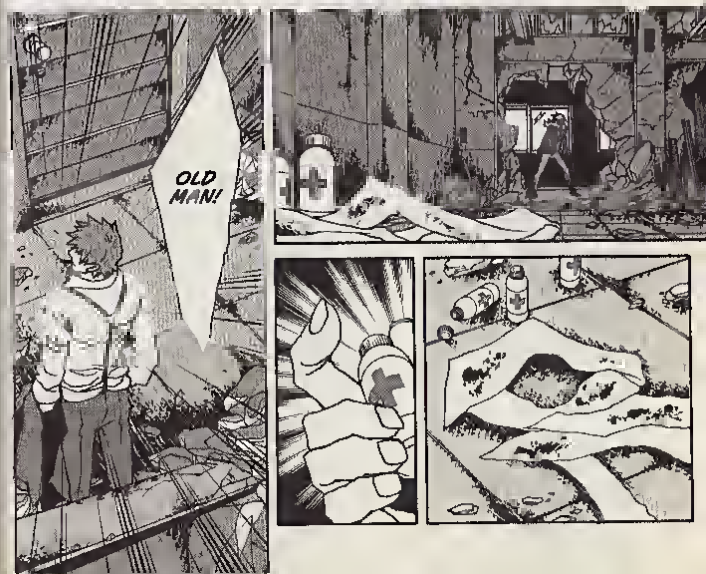

CLI..RK
CLACK
CLACK
YOU'RE SEND-ING.
SPECIAL FORCES UNITS?


SIGH...
CONGRATULATIONS.

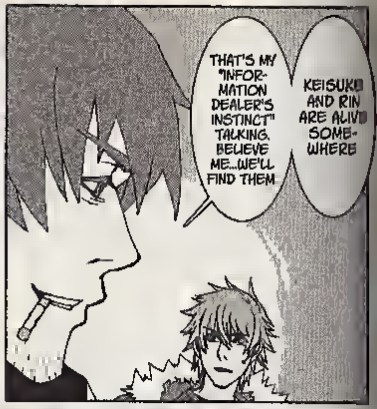
...IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS DON'T HESITATE TO RUN AWAY, ALL RIGHT?
BUT...
YEAH, THAT'S NOT HAPPENING. CAN YOU JUST GO ON YOUR OWN?
ONCE YOU GET BACK INSIDE, YOU USE THE PIPE TO REACH THE STAIRS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR...
AFTER YOU CLIMB THESE STAIRS, YOU HEAD OUTSIDE AND COME BACK IN THROUGH THE BROKEN WINDOW
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET UP?
I WANT A PROMISE, AKIRA!
HEY C'MON!

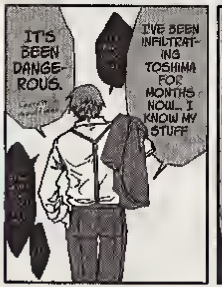
BESIDES, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THIS IS RIN'S BLOOD
CALM DOWN, AKIRA. BANDAGES AND MEDICINE ARE NOTHING TO GET WORKED UP OVER.
I MEAN, I LOOKED AROUND, BUT...
BUT NO DEAD BODIES, RIGHT?
HE SAID IT WAS HIS HIDE-OUT.
...BUT RIN SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO GET UP THERE.
MAYBE NOT...
OLD MAN.
YOU CAN'T JUMP TO CONCLU-SIONS, OTHER-WISE YOU MIGHT MAKE A MISTAKE THAT YOU'LL REGRET LATER
THAT MEANS THAT HE'S PROBABLY STILL ALIVE, EVEN IF HE IS INJURED
FAIR ENOUGH, BUT IF YOU DIDN'T SEE ANY CORPSES, I'D SAY THAT'S A GOOD SIGN
IF WE GO TO THE BAR, THE OWNER MIGHT HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR US.
LET'S ASK AROUND.
THE BAR?


I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
HE USED TO BE AFRAID OF LINE BUT NOW HE'S
THAT LOOK... I KNOW THAT LOOK.


OLD MAN!

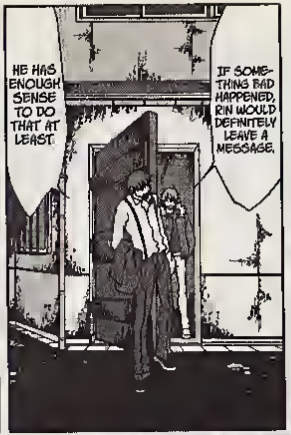
KEISUKE

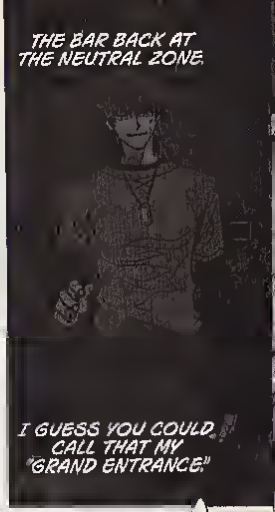

KEISUKE AND RIN ARE ALIVE SOMEWHERE
THAT'S MY "INFORMATION DEALER'S INSTINCT" TALKING. BELIEVE ME...WE'LL FIND THEM


IT'S BEEN DANGEROUS.
I'VE BEEN INFILTRATING TOSHIMA FOR MONTHS NOW... I KNOW MY STUFF

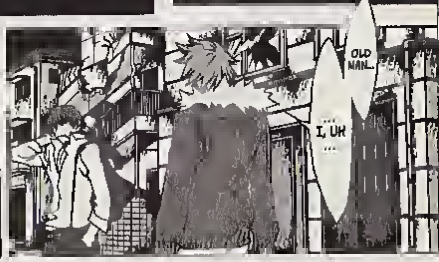
RIGHT

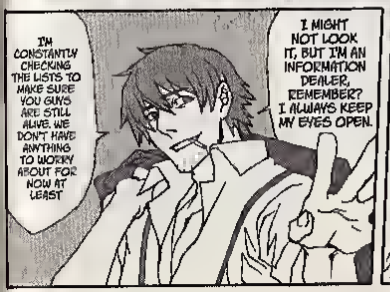
BESIDES, KEISUKE MIGHT'VE DROPPED BY TOO.


HE HAS ENOUGH SENSE TO DO THAT AT LEAST.
IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED, RIN WOULD DEFINITELY LEAVE A MESSAGE.

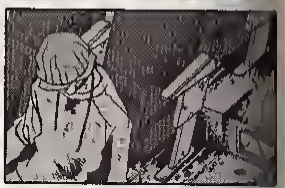

THE BAR BACK AT THE NEUTRAL ZONE.
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL THAT MY "GRAND ENTRANCE."

...
...W-WHAT IF...


OLD MAN...
... I, UH ...

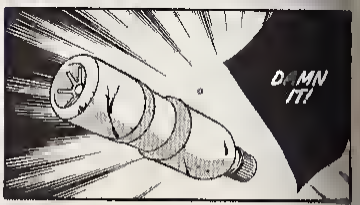

I'M CONSTANTLY CHECKING THE LISTS TO MAKE SURE YOU GUYS ARE STILL ALIVE. WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT FOR NOW AT LEAST
I MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M AN INFORMATION DEALER, REMEMBER? I ALWAYS KEEP MY EYES OPEN.

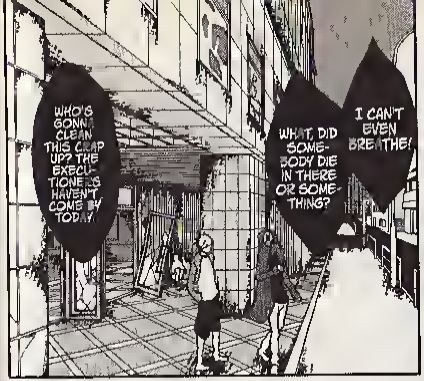
WHAT IF... KEISUKE...

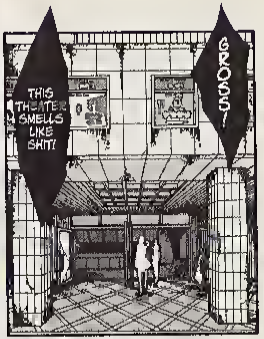


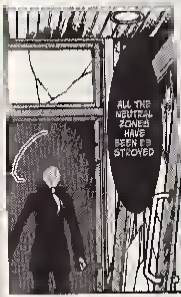
HIT

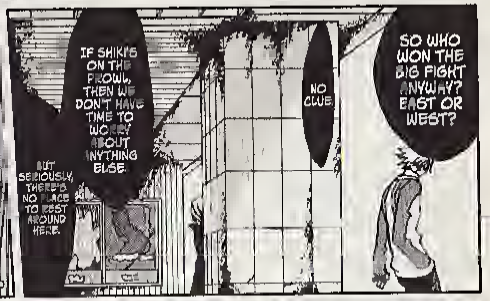
SHIT IT'S ALREADY EMPTY

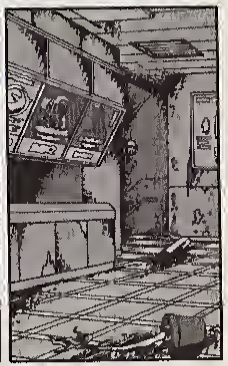

DAMN IT!

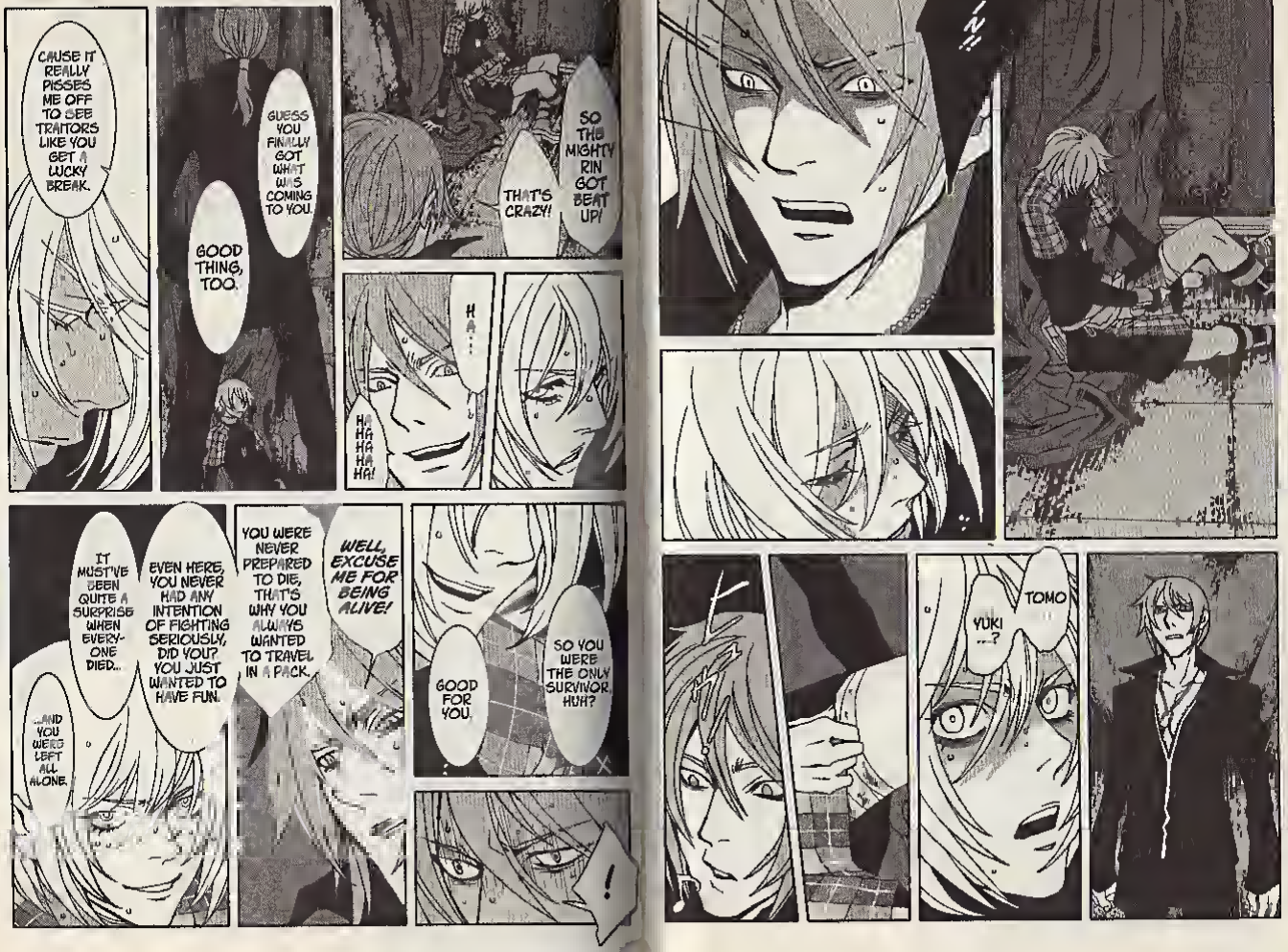

WHO'S GONNA CLEAN THIS CRAP UP? THE EXECUTIONERS HAVEN'T COME BY TODAY
WHAT DID SOMEBODY DIE IN THERE OR SOMETHING?
I CAN'T EVEN BREATHE!

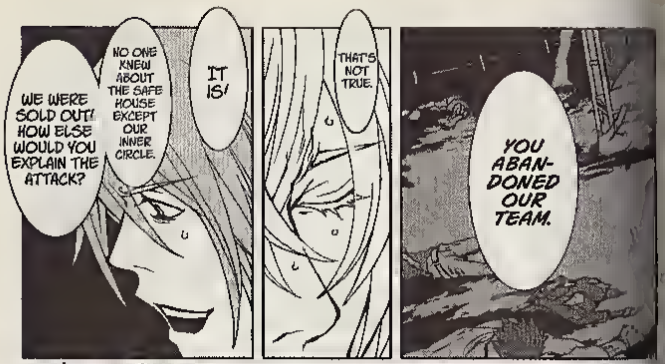

THIS THEATER SMELLS LIKE SHIT!
GROSS!

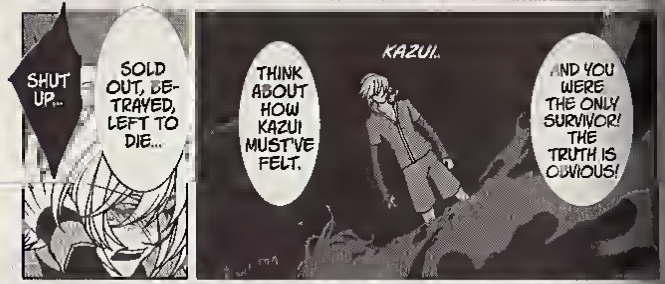

ALL THE NEUTRAL ZONES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED

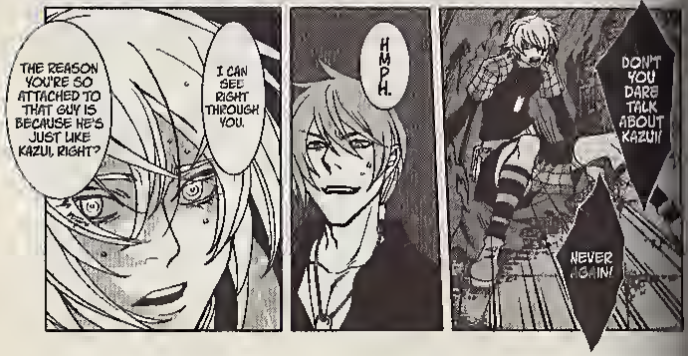

IF SHIKI'S ON THE PROWL, THEN WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.
JUST SERIOUSLY, THERE'S NO PLACE TO REST AROUND HERE.
NO CLUE.
SO WHO WON THE BIG FIGHT ANYWAY? EAST OR WEST?




CAUSE IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF TO SEE TRAITORS LIKE YOU GET A LUCKY BREAK.
GUESS YOU FINALLY GOT WHAT WAS COMING TO YOU.
GOOD THING, TOO.
SO THE MIGHTY RIN GOT BEAT UP!
THAT'S CRAZY!
HA...
HAHAHAHA!
RIN!!!
IT MUST'VE BEEN QUITE A SURPRISE WHEN EVERY-ONE DIED...
EVEN HERE, YOU NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF FIGHTING SERIOUSLY, DID YOU? YOU JUST WANTED TO HAVE FUN.
...AND YOU WERE LEFT ALL ALONE.
YOU WERE NEVER PREPARED TO DIE, THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO TRAVEL IN A PACK.
WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR BEING ALIVE!
GOOD FOR YOU.
SO YOU WERE THE ONLY SURVIVOR, HUH?
!
TOMO
YUKI ...?

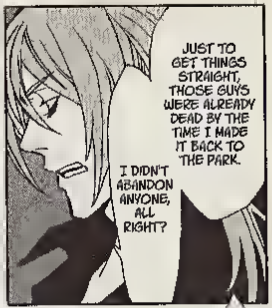

WE WERE SOLD OUT! HOW ELSE WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE ATTACK?
NO ONE KNEW ABOUT THE SAFE HOUSE EXCEPT OUR INNER CIRCLE.
IT IS!
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU ABANDONED OUR TEAM.

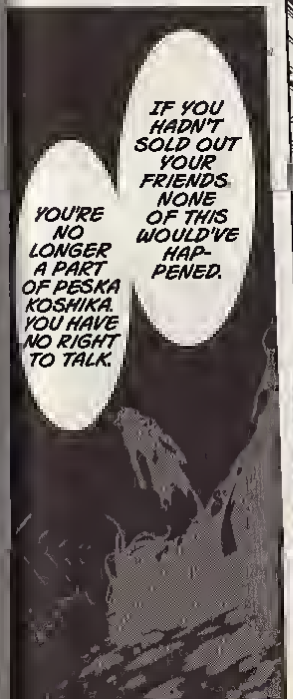

SHUT UP...
SOLD OUT, BETRAYED, LEFT TO DIE...
KAZUI..
THINK ABOUT HOW KAZUI MUST'VE FELT.
AND YOU WERE THE ONLY SURVIVOR! THE TRUTH IS OBVIOUS!


THE REASON YOU'RE SO ATTACHED TO THAT GUY IS BECAUSE HE'S JUST LIKE KAZUI, RIGHT?
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU.
HMPH.
DON'T YOU DARE TALK ABOUT KAZUI!
NEVER AGAIN!

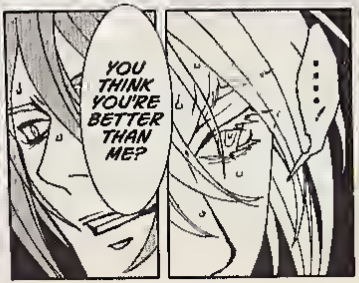
SHUT UP!!
YOU'RE ONLY THINKING OF YOURSELF EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T STAND TO BE ON YOUR OWN. KINDA IRONIC, HUH?

RUNNING IN A PACK IS POINTLESS IF YOU'RE JUST HANGING AROUND TO SAVE YOUR OWN HIDE.


JUST TO GET THINGS STRAIGHT, THOSE GUYS WERE ALREADY DEAD BY THE TIME I MADE IT BACK TO THE PARK.
I DIDN'T ABANDON ANYONE, ALL RIGHT?


IF YOU HADN'T SOLD OUT YOUR FRIENDS, NONE OF THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED.
YOU'RE NO LONGER A PART OF PESKA KOSHIKA. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TALK.

I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT CRAP FROM YOU!
AT LEAST I DIDN'T BREAK UP OUR TEAM, YOU TRAITOR!

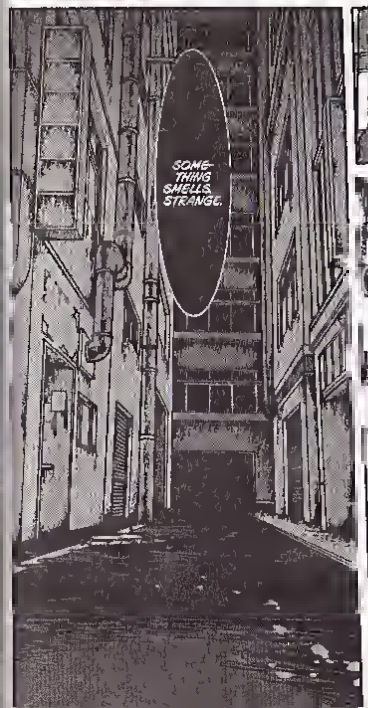

YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME?
.....

DogTag:20

CH

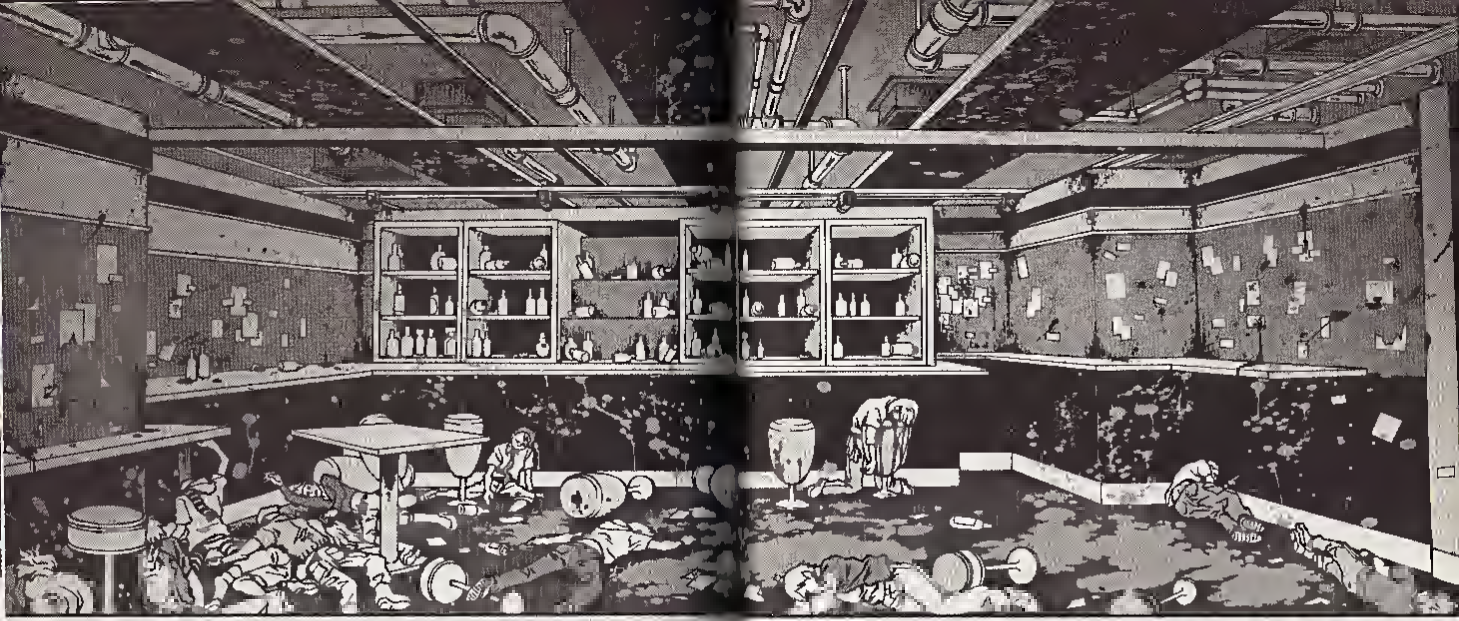
I'D HATE TO BE A REPLACE-MENT FOR KAZUI

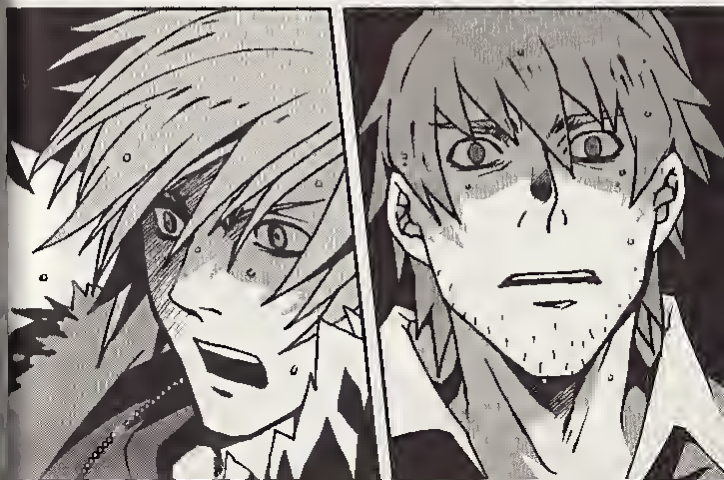
SO ARE YOU GONNA BETRAY HIM TOO? POOR BASTARD

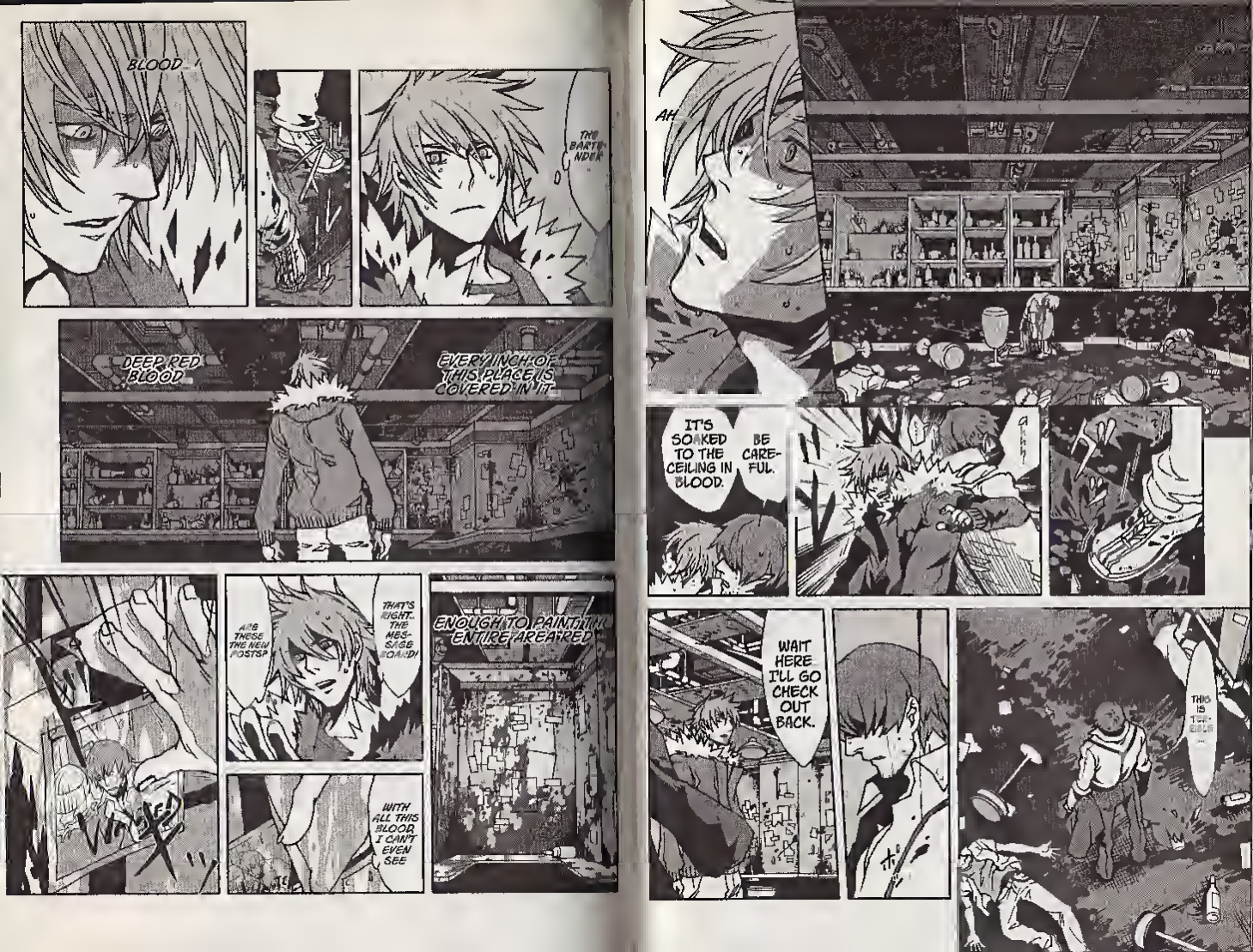

SOME-THING SMELLS STRANGE.

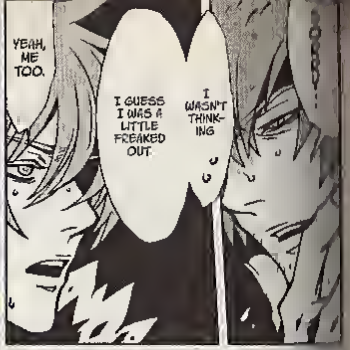
WAIT!

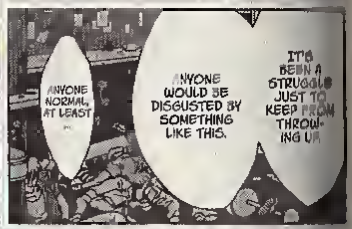
OLD MAN -?
WHAT'S WRONG?






BLOOD...
THE BARTENDER
DEEP RED BLOOD
EVERY INCH OF THIS PLACE IS COVERED IN IT
AH
IT'S SOAKED TO THE CEILING IN BLOOD.
BE CAREFUL.
AHH!
AIR THESE THE NEW POSTS?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE MESSAGE BOARD!
ENOUGH TO PAINT THE ENTIRE AREA RED
WITH ALL THIS BLOOD, I CAN'T EVEN SEE
WAIT HERE I'LL GO CHECK OUT BACK.
THIS IS TOO EERIE...

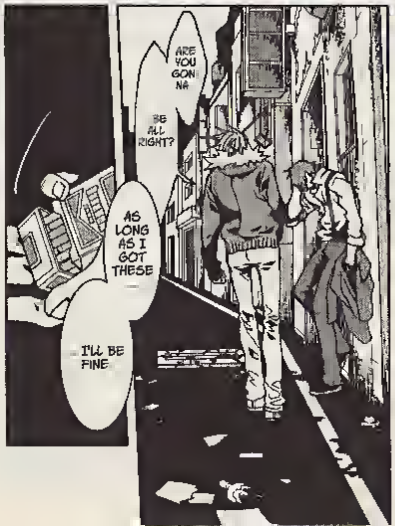

YEAH, ME TOO.
I GUESS I WAS A LITTLE FREAKED OUT
I WASN'T THINK-ING

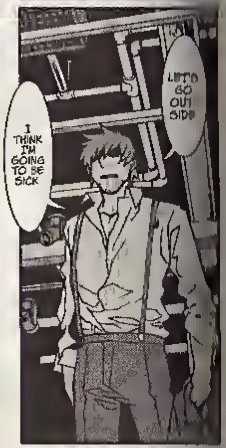

ANYONE NORMAL, AT LEAST
ANYONE WOULD BE DISGUSTED BY SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
IT'S BEEN A STRUGGLE JUST TO KEEP FROM THROW-ING UP.

CHEESE ON THE PLATES, COCKTAILS ON THE TABLES...
EVERY-THING'S STILL IN PLACE
NO CLUE WHERE THE BART ENDER IS, THOUGH

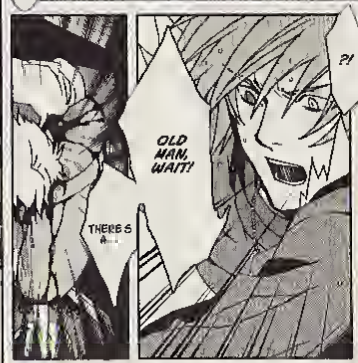
IT MUST'VE BEEN A HIT-AND-RUN

"WANTED"
WANTED
THE VISCHIO...?


ARE YOU GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?
AS LONG AS I GOT THESE
I'LL BE FINE

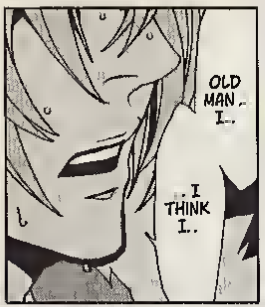

I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK
LET'S GO OUTSIDE

WELL THE BODIES ARE PILED ON TOP OF EACH OTHER, SO IT'S HARD TO SAY
I CAN'T LOOK AT THIS
YOU CHECKED EVERY WHERE??

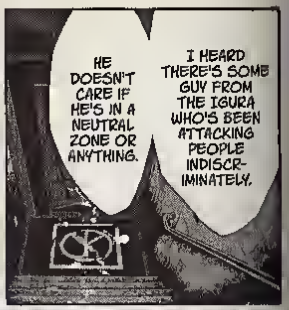

THERE'S
OLD MAN, WAIT!
?!

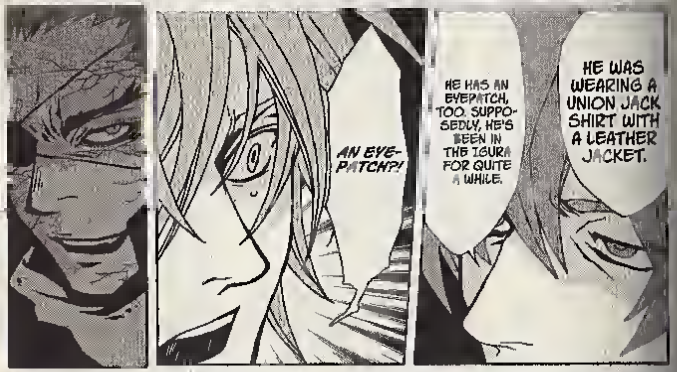
YOUR MEMO DIES CAN DO FUNNY THINGS SOMETIMES.
THAT'S TRAUMA FOR YOU, HUH? EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS I STILL CAN'T STAND SEEING BLOOD.
EVEN IF THEY'RE MEMORIES FROM BEFORE THE WAR...
EVEN IF THEY'RE MEMORIES FROM A LONG TIME AGO...
I HAVE THESE EMOTIONS INGRAINED IN MY BODY THAT JUST "POP UP" LIKE A REFLEX.
I THOUGHT I HAD THINGS ALL WORKED OUT, BUT I GUESS IT'S STILL HAUNTING ME.
FORGET I SAID ANYTHING.
MEMO-RIES
FROM BEFORE THE WAR?
"MEMO-RIES..."
I WONDER IF HE'S TALKING ABOUT HIS CHILD...

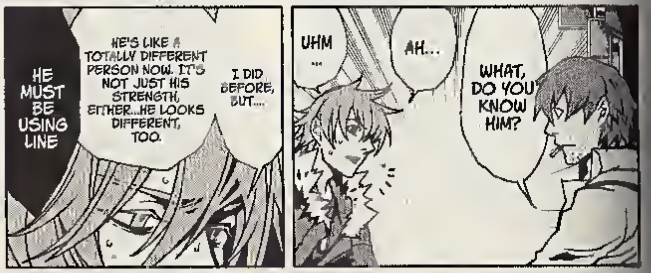
FLICK
RRGH
ブルブル
Sorry
WELL, MY HEAD'S ALL RIGHT AT LEAST...
IT'S JUST THAT SOMETIMES BY BODY DOESN'T DO WHAT MY MIND TELLS IT TO
I THINK I'M BETTER NOW.

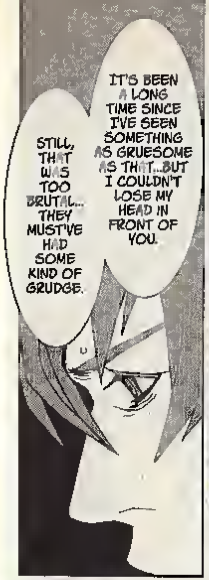

OLD MAN... I...
..I THINK I..

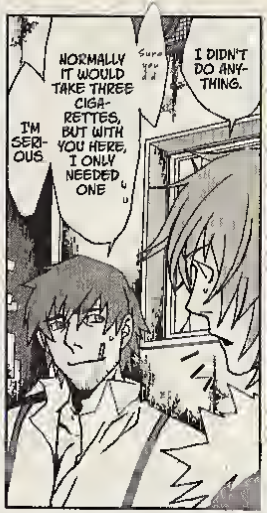
IS IT HIM?


I HEARD THERE'S SOME GUY FROM THE IGURA WHO'S BEEN ATTACKING PEOPLE INDISCRIMINATELY.
HE DOESN'T CARE IF HE'S IN A NEUTRAL ZONE OR ANYTHING.

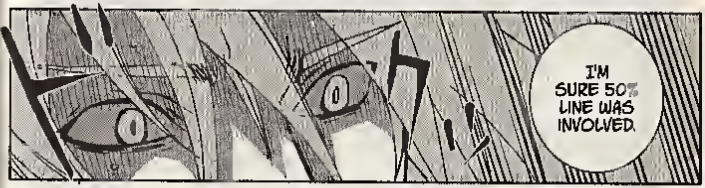

HE WAS WEARING A UNION JACK SHIRT WITH A LEATHER JACKET.
HE HAS AN EYEPATCH, TOO. SUPPOSEDLY, HE'S BEEN IN THE IGURA FOR QUITE A WHILE.
AN EYEPATCH?!


HE MUST BE USING LINE
HE'S LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON NOW. IT'S NOT JUST HIS STRENGTH, EITHER...HE LOOKS DIFFERENT, TOO.
I DID BEFORE, BUT....
UHM...
AH...
WHAT, DO YOU KNOW HIM?

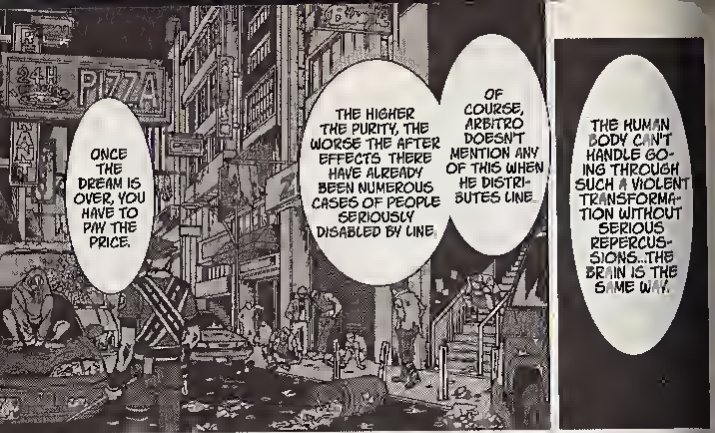

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN SOMETHING AS GRUESOME AS THAT...BUT I COULDN'T LOSE MY HEAD IN FRONT OF YOU.
STILL, THAT WAS TOO BRUTAL... THEY MUST'VE HAD SOME KIND OF GRUDGE.

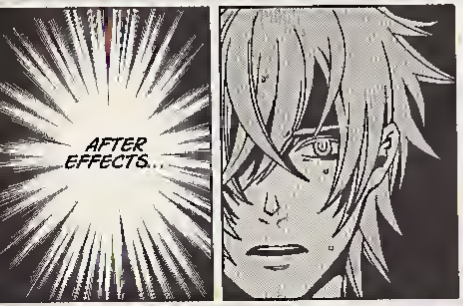

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
Sure you did
NORMALLY IT WOULD TAKE THREE CIGARETTES, BUT WITH YOU HERE, I ONLY NEEDED ONE
I'M SERIOUS.

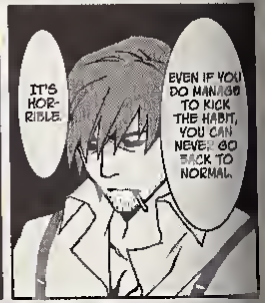
THANKS.
MY HANDS HAVE FINALLY STOPPED SHAKING.


I'M SURE 50% LINE WAS INVOLVED.

"50%"...?


24H
PIZZA
ONCE THE DREAM IS OVER, YOU HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE.
THE HIGHER THE PURITY, THE WORSE THE AFTER EFFECTS THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN NUMEROUS CASES OF PEOPLE SERIOUSLY DISABLED BY LINE.
OF COURSE, ARBITRO DOESN'T MENTION ANY OF THIS WHEN HE DISTRIBUTES LINE.
THE HUMAN BODY CAN'T HANDLE GOING THROUGH SUCH A VIOLENT TRANSFORMATION WITHOUT SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS...THE BRAIN IS THE SAME WAY.


AFTER EFFECTS...


IT'S HORRIBLE.
EVEN IF YOU DO MANAGE TO KICK THE HABIT, YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK TO NORMAL.

I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT COMING UP, SO I HAVE TO TAKE OFF FOR A BIT, OKAY?
HEY, AKIRA...

.....
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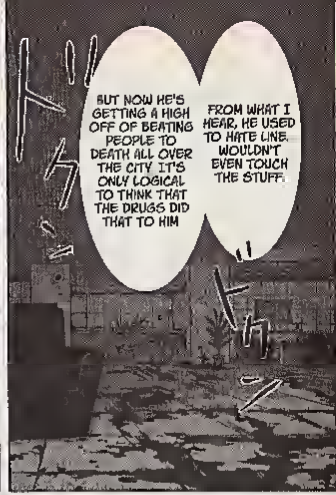
I DON'T CARE IF THEY'RE AN IGURA ENTRANT OR NOT, NO SANE PERSON CAN COMMIT MASS MURDER LIKE THAT.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BUT NOW HE'S GETTING A HIGH OFF OF BEATING PEOPLE TO DEATH ALL OVER THE CITY. IT'S ONLY LOGICAL TO THINK THAT THE DRUGS DID THAT TO HIM
FROM WHAT I HEAR, HE USED TO HATE LINE. WOULDN'T EVEN TOUCH THE STUFF.
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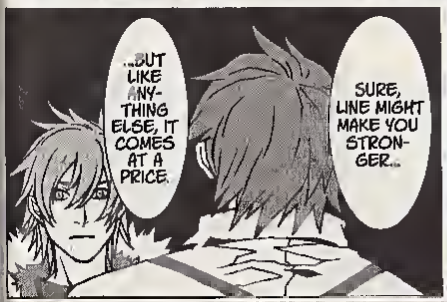
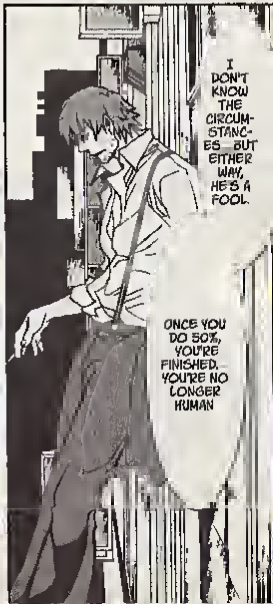
WHAT...?

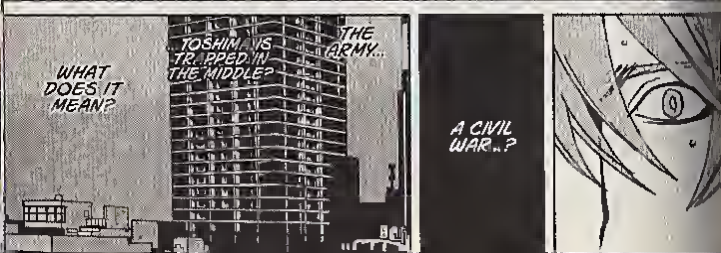

SURE, LINE MIGHT MAKE YOU STRONGER...
...BUT LIKE ANYTHING ELSE, IT COMES AT A PRICE.

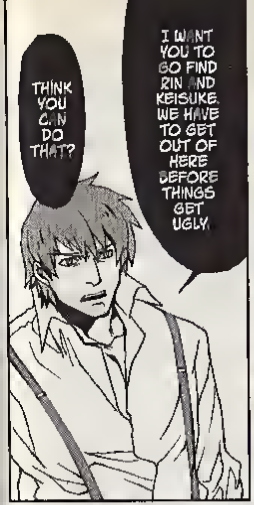

I DON'T KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES...BUT EITHER WAY, HE'S A FOOL.
ONCE YOU DO SO?, YOU'RE FINISHED. YOU'RE NO LONGER HUMAN

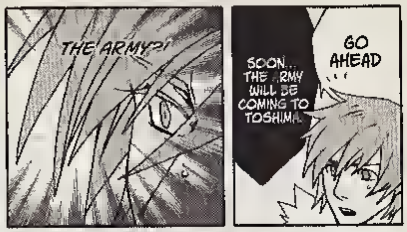
I'LL SEE YOU WHEN THE COLISEUM STARTS. STAY SAFE UNTIL THEN.
I PROMISE I'LL BE THERE.
GOOD.
YEAH.
THERE'S GOING TO BE A BATTLE WITH IL RE AT NOON. LET'S MEET THERE YOU KNOW WHERE THE CASTLE IS, RIGHT?
THIS CITY'S BEEN DISOWNED, AFTER ALL, FROM BOTH THE EAST AND WEST.

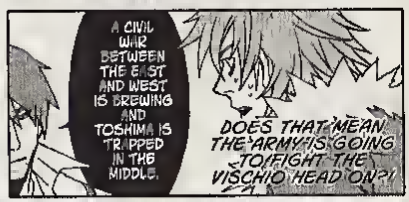
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
DON'T LET ME DOWN.

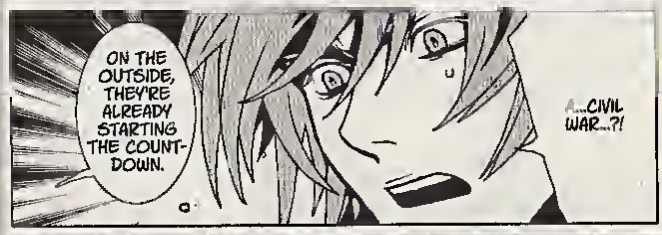
THE ARMY IS COMING

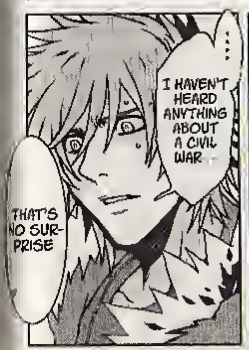

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
TOSHIMA IS TRAPPED IN THE MIDDLE?
THE ARMY...
A CIVIL WAR...?

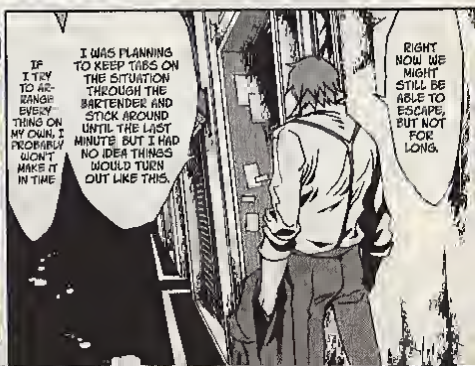

I WANT YOU TO GO FIND RIN AND KEISUKE. WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THINGS GET UGLY.
THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?


THE ARMY?!
SOON... THE ARMY WILL BE COMING TO TOSHIMA.
GO AHEAD


A CIVIL WAR BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST IS BREWING AND TOSHIMA IS TRAPPED IN THE MIDDLE.
DOES THAT MEAN THE ARMY IS GOING TO FIGHT THE VISCHIO HEAD ON?!

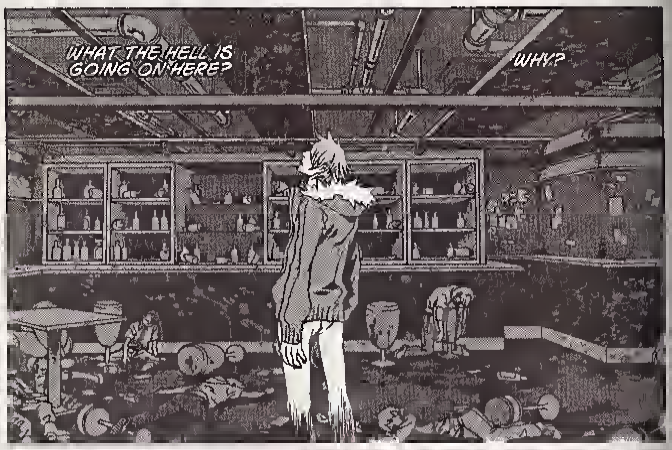

ON THE OUTSIDE, THEY'RE ALREADY STARTING THE COUNT-DOWN.
A...CIVIL WAR...?!


I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT A CIVIL WAR...
THAT'S NO SUR-PRISE

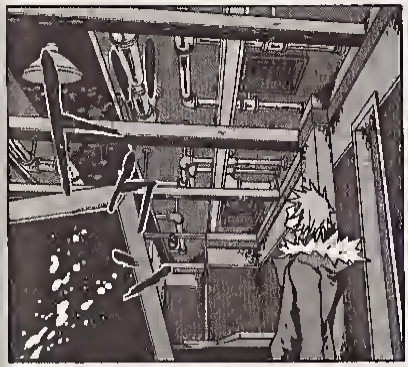

IF I TRY TO AR-RANGE EVERY-THING ON MY OWN, I PROBABLY WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME
I WAS PLANNING TO KEEP TABS ON THE SITUATION THROUGH THE BARTENDER AND STICK AROUND UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE BUT I HAD NO IDEA THINGS WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS.
RIGHT NOW WE MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE, BUT NOT FOR LONG.

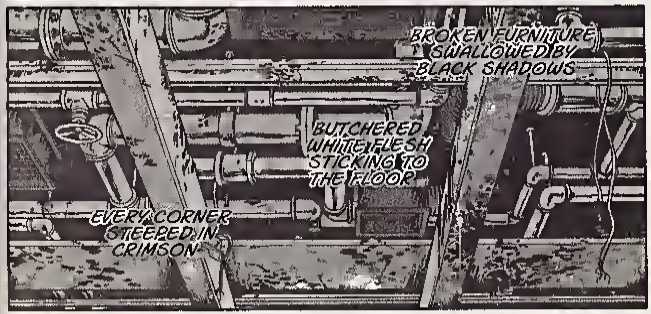
50%?!

THE BAR BACK IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE... I GUESS YOU COULD CALL THAT MY "GRAND ENTRANCE."



"WHY DON'T YOU EVER SAY ANYTHING?"

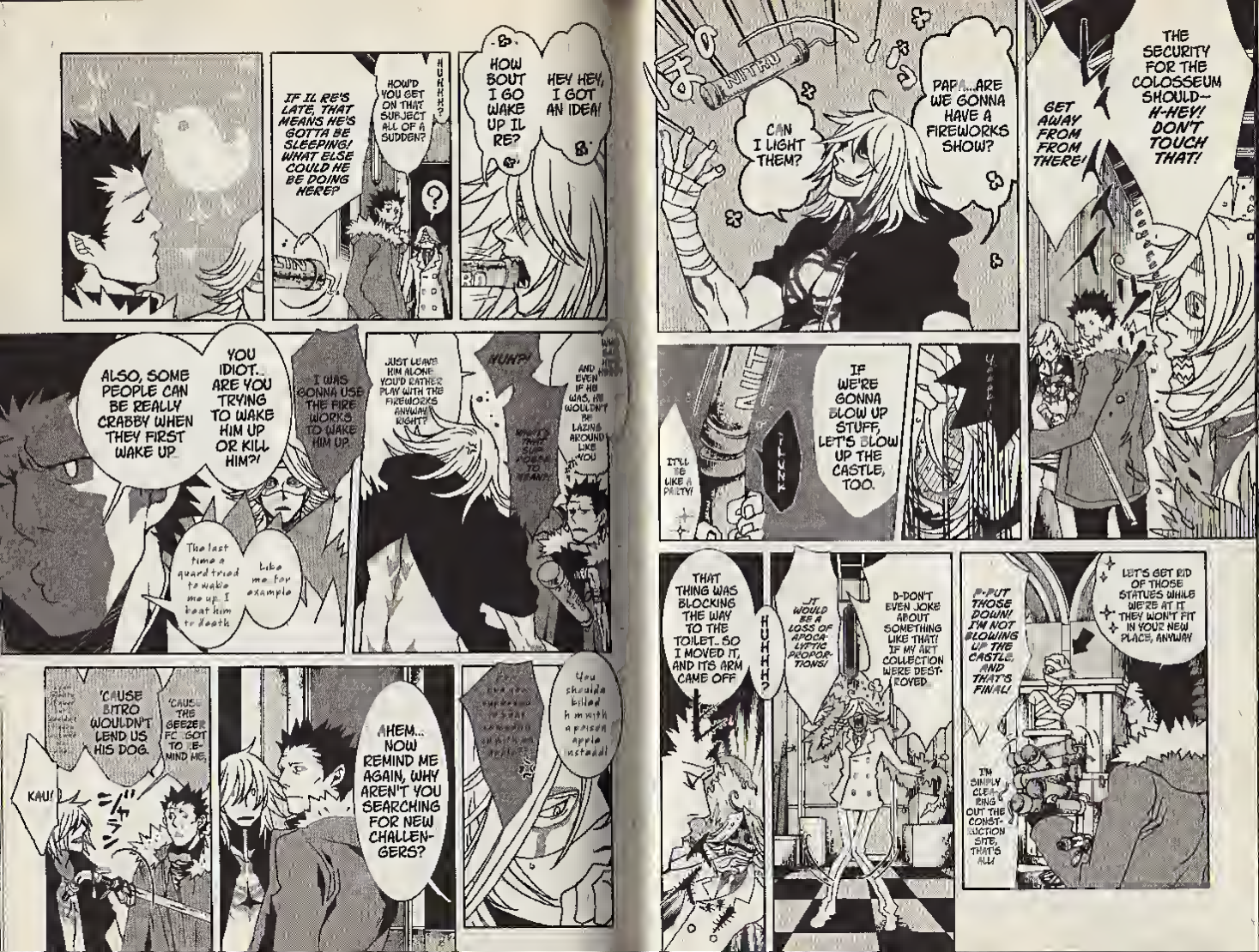


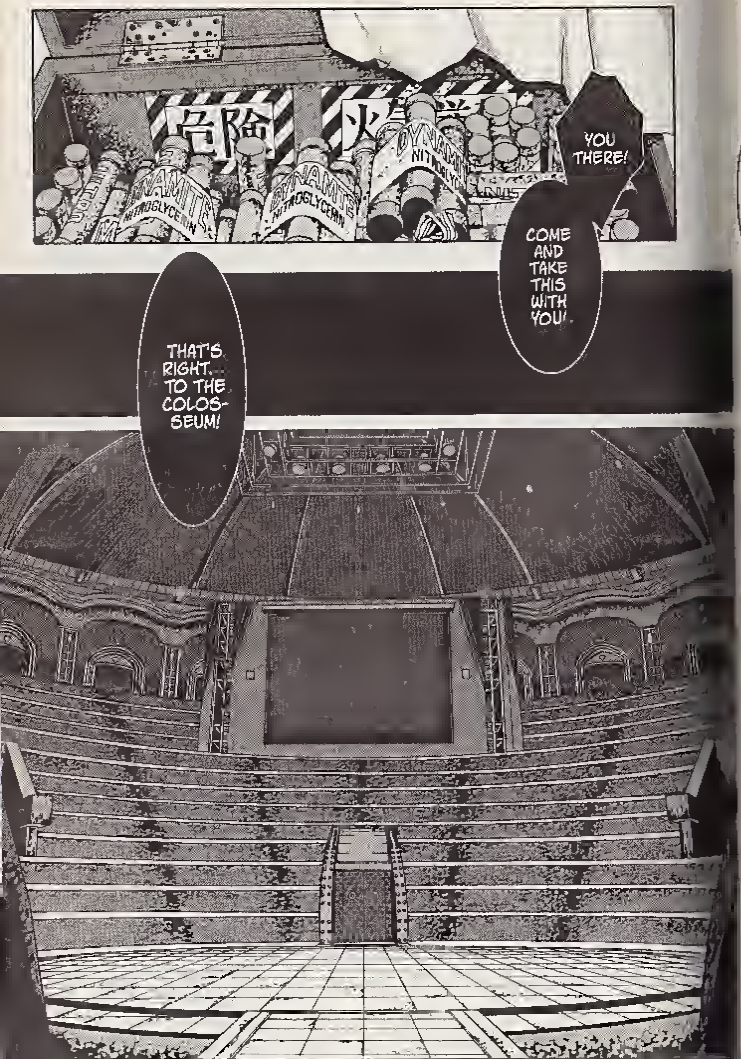

BROKEN FURNITURE SWALLOWED BY BLACK SHADOWS
BUTCHERED WHITE FLESH STICKING TO THE FLOOR
EVERY CORNER STEEPED IN CRIMSON

"I JUST MADE THINGS A LITTLE BIT EASIER FOR MYSELF, THAT'S ALL."
KEISUKE...
MADE THINGS EASIER...?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHY DON'T YOU GET ANGRY?
DON'T YOU WANT TO FIGHT THEM BACK?
WHY DO YOU JUST LET THEM BEAT YOU UP LIKE THAT?
I MEAN
HUH?
YEAH, BUT THEY'RE HITTING YOU FIRST, RIGHT?
B-BUT IF I HIT THEM... THEN THEY'LL GET HURT TOO.
I... I GUESS SO.
UHM...
YOU... DON'T CARE IF YOU HURT SOME-ONE, AKIRA?
I SEE...
AND YOU CAME TO RESCUE ME...
ANYWAY, THEY DIDN'T HURT ME THAT BAD...
...SO I DON'T MIND.

THE SEATS IN THE COLOSSEUM MUST BE FILLED, UNDERSTAND?
INCREASE THE PRIZES AND TRY TO RECRUIT MORE ENTRANTS.
PROLONG THE OPENING CEREMONIES
IL RE IS LATE.
WHAT'S THIS?
Shit. Dangerous.
HEY YOU TWO!
Nhaaaaa!
...THE KIND THAT'LL SEND YOU TO HEAVEN
YEAH, BUT NOT THE KIND WITCHES USE.
OH, SO THEY'RE LIKE MAGIC WANDS OR SOMETHING?
"NHII-TROO-OOO."
SOMETHING TO EAT??? A NEW FLAVOR OF SOLID???
Hey guuuys, could it be me!

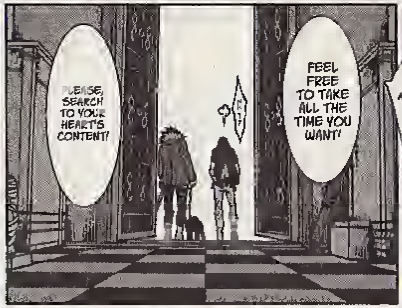

HUHHH?
HOW'D YOU GET ON THAT SUBJECT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
IF IL RE'S LATE, THAT MEANS HE'S GOTTA BE SLEEPING! WHAT ELSE COULD HE BE DOING HERE?
HEY HEY, I GOT AN IDEA!
HOW 'BOUT I GO WAKE UP IL RE?
NITRO
CAN I LIGHT THEM?
PAPA...ARE WE GONNA HAVE A FIREWORKS SHOW?
THE SECURITY FOR THE COLOSSEUM SHOULD--
H-HEY! DON'T TOUCH THAT!
GET AWAY FROM FROM THERE!
IF WE'RE GONNA BLOW UP STUFF, LET'S BLOW UP THE CASTLE, TOO.
IT'LL BE LIKE A PARTY!
FUNE
YOU IDIOT... ARE YOU TRYING TO WAKE HIM UP OR KILL HIM?!
I WAS GONNA USE THE FIRE WORKS TO WAKE HIM UP.
ALSO, SOME PEOPLE CAN BE REALLY CRABBY WHEN THEY FIRST WAKE UP
The last time a guard tried to wake me up, I beat him to death
take me for example
JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE. YOU'D RATHER PLAY WITH THE FIREWORKS ANYWAY, RIGHT?
HUH?
AND EVEN IF HE WAS, HE WOULDN'T BE LAZING AROUND LIKE YOU
WHO'D THINK SUCH POWER IS HIDDEN IN THAT?
'CAUSE NITRO WOULDN'T LEND US HIS DOG.
'CAUSE THE GEEZER FC GOT TO BE-MIND ME.
KAU!
AHEM... NOW REMIND ME AGAIN, WHY AREN'T YOU SEARCHING FOR NEW CHALLENGERS?
You should've killed him with a poison apple instead!
THAT THING WAS BLOCKING THE WAY TO THE TOILET. SO I MOVED IT, AND ITS ARM CAME OFF
HUHHH?
IT WOULD BE A LOSS OF APOCALYPTIC PROPORTIONS!
D-DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT! IF MY ART COLLECTION WERE DESTROYED
D-PUT THOSE DOWN! I'M NOT BLOWING UP THE CASTLE, AND THAT'S FINAL!
I'M SIMPLY CLEARING OUT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE, THAT'S ALL!
LET'S GET RID OF THOSE STATUES WHILE WE'RE AT IT THEY WON'T FIT IN YOUR NEW PLACE, ANYWAY


YOU THERE!
COME AND TAKE THIS WITH YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT... TO THE COLOS-SEUM!

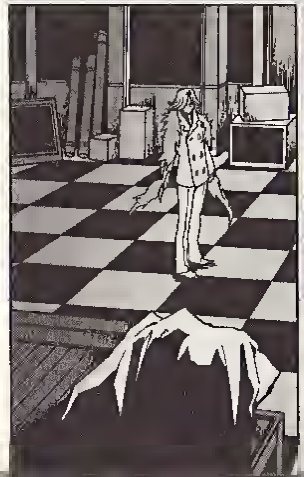
WHAT ABOUT THE COLOS-SEUM? WILL IT BE OKAY?
UHM!
I'LL ASSIGN THAT TO SOMEONE ELSE.
YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE INFIRMITY.

HERE, YOU CAN BOR-ROW HIM
TAKE HIM OUT-SIDE AND START SEARCH-ING.

ROGER THAAAT.

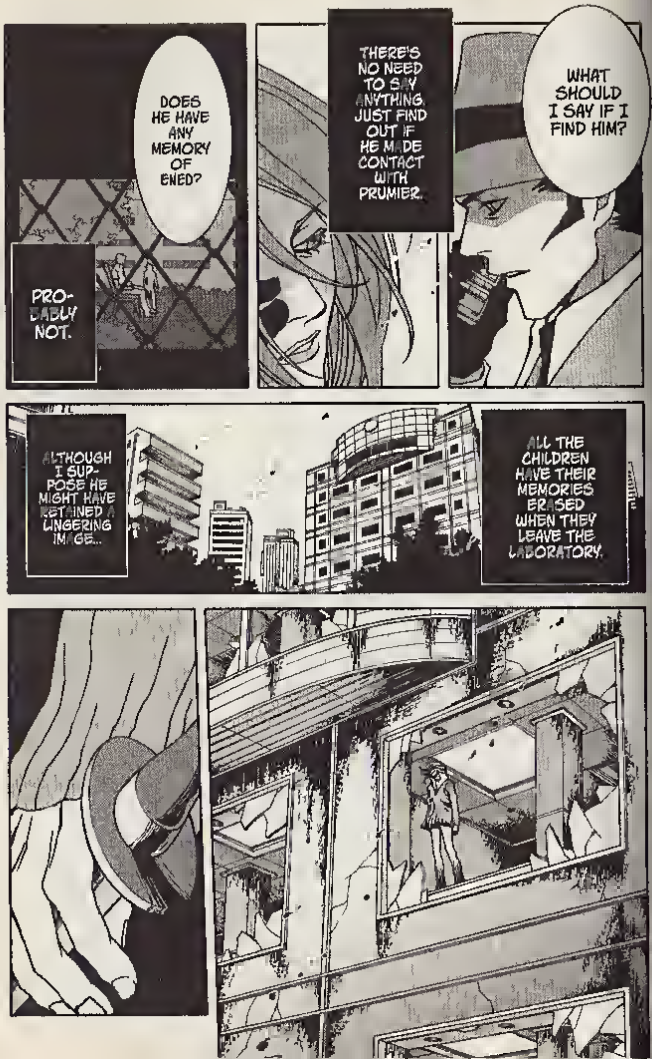

PLEASE, SEARCH TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
FEEL FREE TO TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU WANT!

OOOH OOH! I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR DOG-CHIE!
ASSAU-LTY NOT!



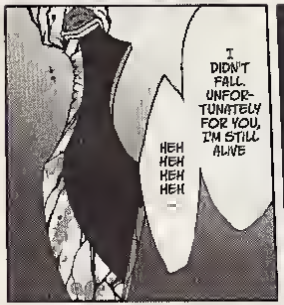
.....

"ジャラン"

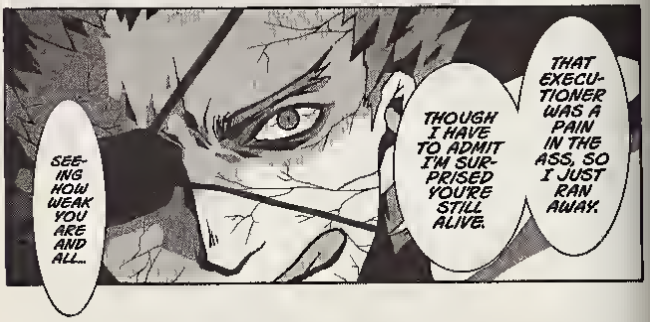

DOES HE HAVE ANY MEMORY OF EMED?
PRO-BABLY NOT.
THERE'S NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING. JUST FIND OUT IF HE MADE CONTACT WITH PRUMIER.
WHAT SHOULD I SAY IF I FIND HIM?
ALTHOUGH I SUP-POSE HE MIGHT HAVE RETAINED A LINGERING IMAGE...
ALL THE CHILDREN HAVE THEIR MEMORIES ERASED WHEN THEY LEAVE THE LABORATORY.

IT'S NOT OPEN YET?
IF YOU ENTER THE COLOS-SEUM YOU GET SOME, RIGHT?
MAN, SCREW THAT I JUST WANT SOME SO%
I JUST CAME 'CAUSE I HEARD THEY WERE GIVING OUT FOOD.
FOR FREE? SER-IOUSLY?
THAT'S JUST SOME CRAZY RUMOR.
A WAR? YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
New York
U.S.A.
THOSE HOT-HEADED MILITARY TYPES DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT US.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE NOT ONLY HAVE WE LOST SIGHT OF OUR TARGET, MY TALKS WITH THE ARMY ARE GOING POORLY.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT? WHAT IF HE FIGURES OUT OUR PLAN?
THE COMMU-NICATION NETWORK IS DOWN. SO YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN RELY ON.
IF YOU FIND THE RABBIT, THEN MAKE CONTACT IMME-DIATELY.
EMMA, IT APPEARS THE BATTLE WITH IL-RE IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE.

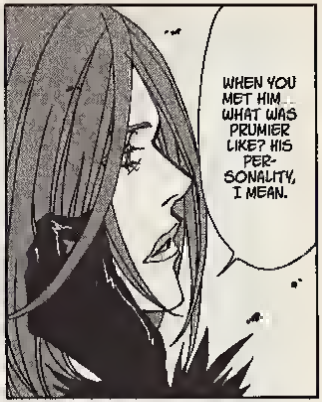
ARE YOU THAT SURPRISED?
WHAT'S WRONG, LOSS? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST SAW A GHOST

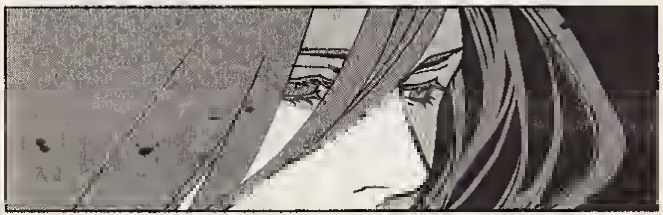

I DIDN'T FALL. UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, I'M STILL ALIVE
HEH HEH HEH HEH

Hahaha


SEEING HOW WEAK YOU ARE AND ALL...
THOUGH I HAVE TO ADMIT I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
THAT EXECUTIONER WAS A PAIN IN THE ASS, SO I JUST RAN AWAY.

KIND OF HARD TO SAY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS LIKE IN THE PAST

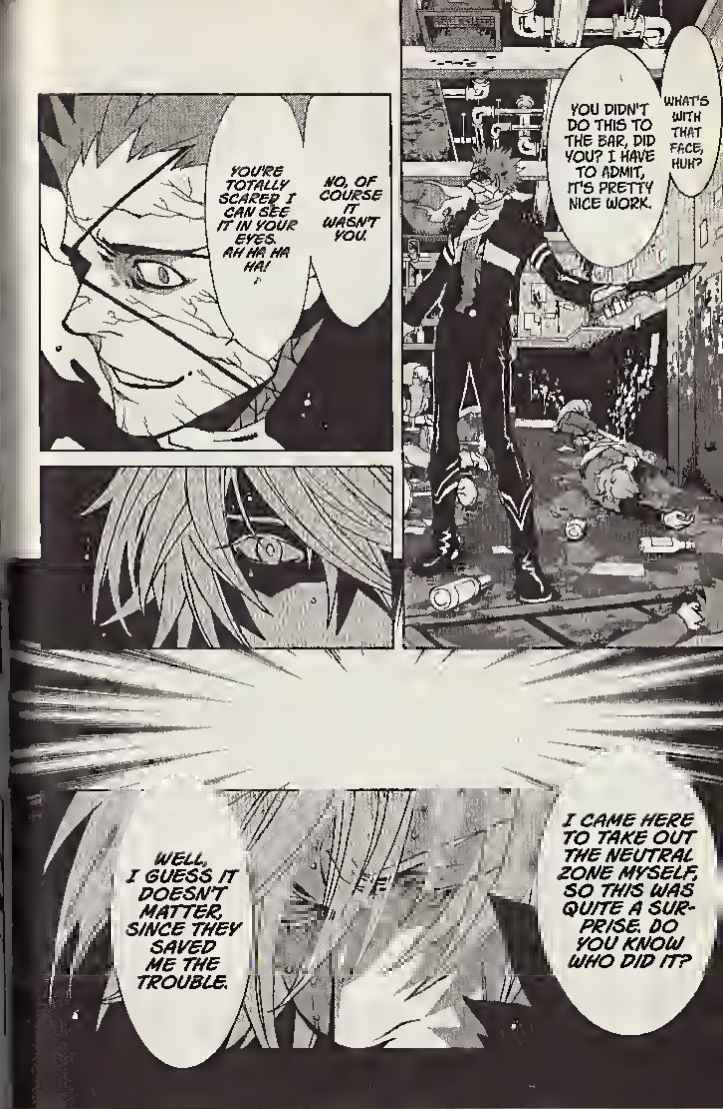

WHEN YOU MET HIM... WHAT WAS PRUMIER LIKE? HIS PERSONALITY, I MEAN.



EMMA?

WELL THEN... I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR NEXT REPORT
NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.

YOU SCARED? IS THAT IT?
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE-LIEVE IT.
WHAT'S WRONG, LOST?
CAT GOT YOUR TON-GUE?
HUH?
EH?
EVEN IF... YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK?
WHAT DYA THINK? IT'S THE BEST FEELING IN THE WORLD!
RIGHT NOW!?
WHAT DOES... IT FEEL LIKE...?


YOU'RE TOTALLY SCARED! I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES. AH HA HA HA!
NO, OF COURSE IT WASN'T YOU.
YOU DIDN'T DO THIS TO THE BAR, DID YOU? I HAVE TO ADMIT, IT'S PRETTY NICE WORK.
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE, HUH?
WELL, I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER, SINCE THEY SAVED ME THE TROUBLE.
I CAME HERE TO TAKE OUT THE NEUTRAL ZONE MYSELF, SO THIS WAS QUITE A SUR-PRISE. DO YOU KNOW WHO DID IT?

"AN OVERTURE TO ENDLESS DARKNESS..."

咎狗の血

TOGAINU-NO-CHI

BRING IT.
YOU ALREADY KNOW YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME...
YOU SURE YOU WANNA DO THIS?
TOGAINU NO CHI - BOOK NUMBER 4 END
JUST LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE HERE!
ALL RIGHT THEN... I'LL MAKE MINCE-MEAT OUT OF YOU!
HA...
HA HA...

Staff thanx

Yoshinori Kaiichi, Okamoto Kazukuni, Yamada Masahiko, Ueda Ayumi, Yamamoto Kaori, Kawano Yuko, Hirata Shizuka, Hasegawa Yuka (alphabetical order)

Editor thanx

Kimura-san & CBQ editorial department

SP thanx — Nyuhbessoba Sukunahikona-sama

Do you know how many times people have given me blue cockroaches?!
...but if you wanna survive in Teshima you really gotta protect yourself!
Hey, maybe an old man like you wouldn't understand
Look at you...

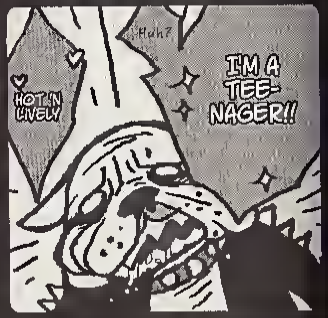
Hey! There's the new boy!!
Could I jump over to talk to him/her?
It's hard.
Don't feel bad, Motomi! In this town just being an old man is sexual harassment
HP3

THANX

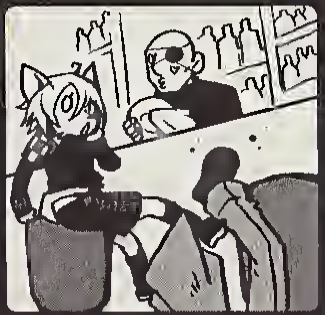
Nitro+CHIRAL

Tsukiuchi-sama, Chiral-kun, Fuchii-sama, Tatsukuna-sama

and You.



Whaaa? Whaaa? Whaaa?
Wait, sort of. He's right over there.
Is he young?
Motomi, That new boy is here. He might be the one you've been waiting for.



I thought you were in middle school. Master Camera and Dr. Ice cream already!
You're too young I don't tell you
Our Work is... Top secret
It's uh... "grown up stuff" It's hard to explain
It's not like that
He's taking heavy damage
Critical hit